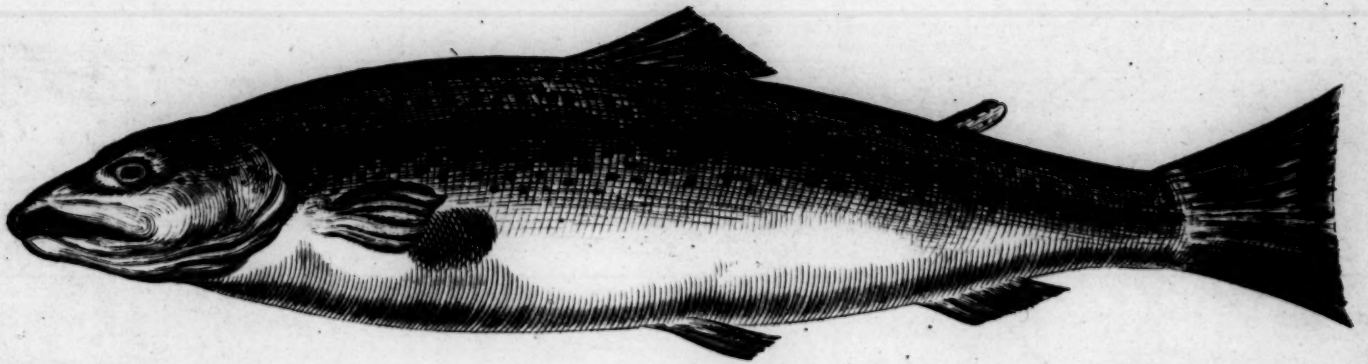

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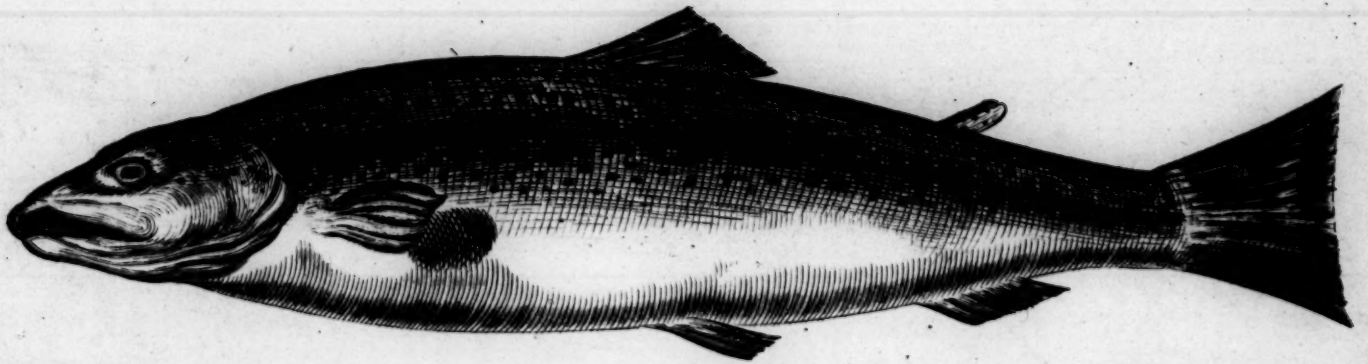

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C.Livesey sculp.

THE

North-Country Angler;

OR, THE

ART of ANGLING:

AS PRACTICED IN

THE NORTHERN COUNTIES

OF

ENGLAND.

THIRD EDITION.

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THE

THE NORTH-COUNTRY ANGLER.

CHAP. I

Of Fiſhing-Rods: How and when to lay in a Stock of Materials at a very little Expence.

MOST anglers are very curious about their fiſhing-rods; ſome in chooſing the materials, others in the manner of making them. And although I obſerve, that neither Mr. *Walton* nor Mr. *Cotton*, in their Books of the Complete Angler, give any directions, or ſay any thing about them; yet others that have written of angling, give us enough of that article. One, who has written very ingeniouſly and methodically, recommends the bag-rod, as the *unum neceſſarium*, as if one could not be an angler without having ſuch a one: It is to be made of I do not know how many ſhort pieces, to be carried in a bag by one's ſide; ſo that I cannot help thinking, I ſee the 'Squire trudging along to the river, like one of our North-country pipers, with his great drone, and his leſs lilters, in a

great bag under his coat lap. Another muſt have his cane rod, or there's nothing to be done; and, leſt the colour ſhould be offenſive, it muſt be ſcraped off, though he owns it ſpoils the rod; or elſe it muſt be covered with thin leather or parchment. But I think ſuch a rod would not endure being dragged about in a great pool, by a large fiſh, for half an hour or more, as mine often has been.

Therefore, I ſet all theſe babbling curioſities aſide, and content myſelf with a root-piece of fir, ſawn from the ſap ſide of a deal board; though if I could get a hazle-root, finely taper and light enough, I ſhould like it as well: Neither would I make any objection to a hazle-root bored ſo far as juſt to hold a top of five feet or two yards, for that may be dried again without any conſiderable damage. I make my root eight feet, or rather three yards; with a piece of ſtick an inch longer than the ſplice, to wrap on to it, to ſave the ſmall end of the ſplice from being broken by any accident. I faſten my top to the root with three or four leather loops, 'till I come to the river. I muſt own I take ſome pains in making my top: Sometimes, I have made it of a wood called Hickery, that is brought over ſea, of which the ends of great caſks are made, but this, beſides its being a heavy top, will take any bent when much wet: I have made very pretty tops of red-wood, and ſometimes good ones, when the wood has been ſawn ſtreight with the grain; but this is not always obſerved by joiners, and thoſe that ſaw it into lengths, and ſquare the pieces with a plane.

plane. Theſe when raſped and filed, and neatly made up, look very well; but being a ſhort-grained wood, is apt to break off like a ſplice, as I have ſometimes known it do, upon ſtriking a fiſh that has taken the fly too near me, and ſo I have loſt line, fiſh, top and all. I have tried barbary, brier and dog-tree, but upon trial have found fault with them all. Some think hazle if choſen with judgment, makes as good a top as any; and I own it does ſo, for coarſe ſtrong tackle. Some prefer the ruſh-grown cane tops to all others; but I cannot be altogether of their opinion. I once, indeed, ſaw a cane top that ſurpriſed me very much: I could not have believed, unleſs I had ſeen it, that any thing naturally grown, with ſuch joints and cavities as canes always have, could have been ſo taper, light and ſtrong.

Yew, eſpecially the white of it, makes a very fine top; but among all that I have tried, I have found none ſo generally ſerviceable as the burtree or elder: But to make it ſuch, I muſt inſiſt upon its being uſed exactly as I do, otherwiſe I will not anſwer for it. I cut my burtree about Martinmas; a branch of three years growth is old enough. As ſoon as I bring it home, I ſaw it through at every joint; only ſometimes, when the branch is exactly ſtreight, I make a length of two joints. For you may obſerve, that the two branches which grow out at every joint, do not grow out at the ſame ſide of the branch for two joints together, but alternately two to one ſide at one joint, and on the other ſide at the next joint. This length of two joints, I

chooſe, if I can, at the thick end of the branch, and ſplit it ſo, that I can have a piece of its full length from either ſide, without a knot; theſe pieces will be near three quarters of a yard long. One of theſe makes the thick end of the top; the other joints I ſplit into four, ſhaving off the bark and the core and pith, and tie every joint by itſelf.

I always make a top of the ſame joint, cut at the ſame time; and when I dreſs the pieces, I take care to place the thick end of every piece towards the thick end of the rod, that end being naturally a little harder and more ſolid than the other. I keep my pieces when ſplit and tied together, twelve months at leaſt, and then plane or raſp them taper and ſquare firſt, then raſp off the arriges, and dreſs them with a file exactly round, taper and ſmooth: I make the ſplice ſmooth, rub it with ſhoemaker's wax, but very thin, wrap it cloſe with fine white ſilk, filing all the outſide of the joint ſo, that when wrapped, it may not be thicker than the joint an inch above it. The finer tops for ſmall fly, are two yards or ſeven feet long; the ſtronger for large fly, trowling with minnow, &c. not quite two yards. I ſeldom have more than one root for both theſe tops, and can make a ſhift, with either of them, to do the work that more properly belongs to the other.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

How to make Lines for all Kinds of Angling. What Hair is beſt. How to make it ready for twiſting, &c.

IF I might chooſe, it ſhould be the tail of an unrumped ſtallion, next to that of a ſtrong gelding, of a pale transparent water colour. Such a tail is now a great rarity, moſt gentlemen rumping their horſes before the hair is come to its ful ſtrength. When I have got ſuch a one, I lay it five or ſix days in a moiſt place, or till the hairs will draw out of it eaſily, without ſtraining them. I draw out 100 or 200 near the ſame place of the rump, wrap a thread about the root end of them, waſh them well, and rub them dry with a little bran; then I lay them in a book, and draw them out by the root end, as barbers do from their cards; and when I have made them exactly equal at that end, I wrap a bit of paper about them, four or five inches from it, with a waxed thread, and cut off as much of the ſmall end as I think is not good enough. In this manner I keep all my links which, though of different lengths, yet all the hairs of every link are exactly the ſame, and ready for making what ſort of lines you pleaſe. There are ſo many ways of twiſting or plaiting the hairs, that if I was to give the preference to any one, ſome fiſhers, that like their own way better, would cenſure my judgment; I ſhall therefore only mention ſome of

the beſt, and leave every one at liberty to chooſe according to his fancy.

The firſt I ſhall take notice of is, that of twiſting them without either knotting or wrapping: and this, for ſome lines, I like as well as any other, if it is made nicely taper, neither too looſe nor too hard, and the ends of the hairs ſo bedded in the line, as ſcarce to be felt.

Some make theſe lines with three ſmall quills, about two inches long, through each of which they put the third part of the hairs they uſe, and have a little bit of a feather end, or wood, to keep the hairs faſt in the quills; they tie a knot at the end of the hairs, and twirl all the three quills equally with the ball of their hand upon their knee, putting in hairs at proper places and diſtances into the three quills. Others uſe three little ſticks about four inches long, as thick as one's little finger, with rings to fit upon their ends, to keep the hairs faſt; theſe ſticks they twirl about 'till all the three ſtrands are equally twiſted, and then plait the line down to the ſticks, and ſo on.

In ſome places of the North, in Scotland and Ireland, they twiſt their ſalmon lines in this manner; and they pretend they will run through the loops on the rod very well; though I ſhould rather chooſe a ſilk or a fine thread line for that purpoſe, the other being far more clumſy and ſtiff.

The next way of twiſting them is with an engine, ſuch as ropers uſe for making ſmall cords, which I ſhall not deſcribe, becauſe ſo well known: I generally uſe one of theſe, as the moſt

eaſy

eaſy and beſt way to make ſnoods; and I think one might contrive it ſo as to make long lines with it, without knots, though I never attempted it, liking my own method well enough, which is this: I fix the engine againſt the ſide of a poſt, at ſuch a height that I can ſit on a chair, and reach conveniently to turn the engine with my right hand, and to the low end of my ſnood with the left hand, and ſo twiſt them perpendicularly in this manner:—I draw from one of my links as many hairs as I would twiſt at one time, ſuppoſe twelve; four of theſe I draw from the reſt, and put the ſmall ends of them to the root end of the other eight, at which end I make a knot to loſe as little of the length of the plait as poſſible; then I divide the twelve hairs into three parts, having one of the four that I turned in each of the two ſtrands, and two of them in the third; I make a knot at the end of every ſtrand, and put them on the three hooks of the engine, as the ropers do their thread; then I hang on to the great knot at the ſnood a conick piece of lead, ſuch as maſons uſe, with a little hook fixed in the ſmall end of it; I put the thumb and the two fingers of my left hand between the three ſtrands, cloſe down to the lead, and turn the engine about with my right hand, 'till the three ſtrands are duly twiſted; then I draw up the thumb and fingers of my left hand gradually from the lead, which will twirl round of itſelf, and keep turning the engine 'till the ſnood is twiſted to the very top; then I unhook the three ſtrands from the engine, as ſoon as the lead at the low end of the ſnood has done turning,

ing, and make a knot at the upper end of the plait.

This makes a very ſtrong and beautiful ſnood; and if you chooſe to wrap, inſtead of knotting them, they make as fine a line as I would deſire to fiſh with.

When I make a line of theſe plaits, which are all of them a little taper, I put three or four of twelve hairs at the top, and three or four of nine, lower down, and two or three of eight or ſeven at the ſmall end, for ſtrong fiſhing, and wrap them with white ſilk, waxed with white ſhoemaker's wax, dipping the ends of them firſt in a little melted wax, the wrapping ſcarce an inch long, which I make thus:—After I have dipped near half an inch of the ends in melted wax, I divide them into three, and put them together as ſailor's ſplice their ropes; then I wrap twice about the line above the ſplice, and the ſame at the other end of it, drawing the ſilk very tight and ſtrong: At each end of every line I make a loop of an inch long, neatly wrapt, or a knot at the top. My angler is to take notice, that I never twiſt with my engine a leſs number than ſix hairs; all under I plait with my fingers, keeping the hairs from croſſing one another, with the thumb and fingers of my left hand; and when I have plaited it over once, before I make a knot at the ſmaller end, I draw it all along from the knot between my finger and thumb, and then plait it gently over again, to make the hairs lie cloſer and ſmoother; and he muſt likewiſe remember, that in a plait of five hairs, I put the ſmall ends of two hairs to the

root

root end of the three; and in a plait of four, I either put two of them with the ſmall ends to the thick ends of the other two; or, however, turn one of them to make the line more taper, and do the ſame in a plait of three. And this is one advantage we may have, by drawing the hairs and cutting off the ſmall ends, and all that are tainted or weak.

I ſhall, in this place, give ſome directions how to make links with one, two or three flies, to loop on to the low end of the line. How and of what materials to make the flies, I have ſhewn in another place. There is more judgment and nicety required in this, than ſome fiſhers take notice of.

For your fineſt fly line, your link muſt be all of ſingle hairs; of which you muſt chooſe the ſmalleſt and weakeſt for the end fly, and dreſs it to the thick or root end of the hair; it will laſt twice as long as it would do if dreſſed to the ſmall end: This fly ſhould not be a hackle fly, but a dubbed one; becauſe it will be often under water, and will reſemble the fly in a ſitting poſture, better than the hackle would do, which looks as if upon the wing. I generally dreſs it a half fly only, with a briſtle to keep on a grub or maggot.

The ſecond fly ſhould be a hackle, dreſſed to the ſmall end of the ſecond hair, at which if you hook a fiſh that is too ſtrong for you, it will ſooner break, and ſo you will only loſe the fly. When you have dreſſed this ſecond fly, put the ſmall end of the firſt hair to the fly end of the ſecond hair; draw the fly about three inches beyond the

end

end of the other hair, and make the common fiſher's knot, which will make the ſecond fly hang down perpendicular from the line; dreſs your third fly a hackle, to the ſmall end of your third and ſtrongeſt hair, and knot it to the thick end of the ſecond hair as you did before, but let it hang an inch longer down then your ſecond fly does; ſo they will both touch the water, as you draw your line acroſs a ſtream: Then make a neat loop at the thick end of your third hair, about a ſtraw's breadth long, through which you may put the longer loop at the end of your line, and draw your three flies through it.

If your hairs are above twenty inches long, you ſhould have only two of them in the link, and conſequently only two flies; for your flies, if you have three, ſhould not be above eighteen inches from one another. If you have three lengths of two hairs, uſe the ſame method; but if you chooſe to have the uppermoſt plait of three hairs, then dreſs the third fly the thick end of the ſecond plait.

For all ſtronger fly fiſhing, as with Indian-graſs, ſilk-worm-gut, ſwine's briſtles, or three or four hairs, you ſhould have no more then two flies, the drop fly, at a yard diſtance from the end fly, and the drop fly ſhould be a hackle. You muſt have three fly lines to ſuit theſe three ſorts of links; and have a link, proper for the ſeaſon and the water, looped on to every line; and then, when you come to the water, you will have no more to do, but to put on your line and begin your diverſion.

You may chooſe whether you will have a loop at

at the top of your line, or a double knot only: A loop is the more troublesome, becauſe you muſt draw your whole line through it, and the knot will hold faſt enough, by being put only once through and knotted.

When you fiſh with ſilk-worm-gut, let it be a yard long, though of two pieces, the ſmalleſt next the hook, and a plait of four good hairs at the top of it; from the ſmall end of which plait you may have a drop fly, which will make the whole link above a yard and a half long; the ſmall end of your line for ſuch a link, ſhould be ſix ſmall hairs, engine-twiſted; and you muſt remember, that the ſtronger your tackle, the line ſhould be the ſhorter, or your rod the longer. Theſe lines and links are more particularly for fly fiſhing, yet the fineſt may be uſed for brandling, grub, &c. in clear ſtreams.

I ſaw, in London, a large dappled grey-horſe, which, I was told, the owner, a brewer, valued at one hundred and fifty guineas. I conſulted with my landlord, who dealt largely with him, how to get ſome hairs out of his tail, which was the fineſt and longeſt I ever ſaw. The drayman loved drink; a bribe will do wonders! I had above two hundred brought me for two ſhillings and a pot of beer: I would not have taken ſix-pence for the worſt of them; though I gave half of them among my brother anglers in the north; and my kind landlord procured me, by the ſame means, two little links, of one hundred each, the year following.

CHAP.

CHAP III.

Of Hog's Briſtles. Their Uſe and Excellence.

I Do not mean of ſuch briſtles as grow upon our ſwine, or boars in England, but ſuch as are brought from Ruſſia, &c. where their ſwine are much larger than ours, and the briſtles in proportion longer. They are a more conſiderable article in our trade than moſt people imagine; our bruſh-makers in London, &c. buying great quantities of them. I was once in a warehouſe, where I ſaw great bundles of them, and ſome of them longer then I had ever ſeen any before. A whim came into my head at that inſtant, that I could make them ſerviceable in fiſhing.

I begged leave to chooſe a few from among them, which was readily granted; and I got about the thickneſs of my wriſt of the longeſt, ſmalleſt, and roundeſt I could find; ſome of them were nine, ten and eleven inches long.

When I came down into the country, I began to try ſome experiments with them, and found they anſwered beyond my expectation. If I ſhould ſay, I prefer them to Indian-graſs and ſilk-worm-gut, it is only becauſe theſe things are not ordered to the beſt advantage they are capable of. The Indian-graſs might be ſtretched and drawn longer, ſtreighter, ſmaller and leſs taper, than moſt of them are. And the ſilk-worm-gut, that is generally thickeſt in the middle, flat, and too ſuddenly tapering to the ends, might, by an artiſt, be made a yard long without

any

any of theſe faults whereas now, not one in twenty of them are not worth a ruſh.

I muſt confeſs, there is a great deal of pains and art requiſite to make the briſtles, I am now recommending, very uſeful; I ſhall tell my angler how I do it:—As they are the ſtrongeſt of all materials I ever met with yet, I made uſe of them only where ſtrong tackle was neceſſary: And firſt, for ſtrong fly fiſhing, I have made links of two feet or a yard long, thus: I firſt chooſe the ſmalleſt of them, to the root end of which, I dreſſed a large hackle fly on a Gilſe hook; the other end of the briſtle is generally jagged for an inch or more; that I always cut off, and as much as is the leaſt faulty; and then ſplit it in two or three the length of half an inch, which I dip in white wax, melted, and join it to the end of another, divided in the ſame manner, as ſailors ſplice their ropes, and wrap them very tight with white ſilk, waxed with white wax: I ſplit the root ends in the ſame way, till I think it is long enough, always chooſing the briſtles that the link may taper a little in ſtrength and thickneſs; at the end of which I wrap a loop half an inch long, through which I put the loop at the end of my line, and then putting my fly through that wider loop, draw it as it ſhould be: If I chooſe to have a drop fly, I loop it on to either of theſe loops, which it will fit beſt. Five briſtles will make a link of a yard long, or ſomewhat more; for ſuch a link the end of my line is five good hairs; with this I fiſh when the water is a little diſcoloured after a flood; or in ſtrong ſtreams when it is clear; or in the deeps in a briſk wind;

and never fear engaging with salmon or salmon trout.

With such a link I fiſh with minnow in ſtreams for great trouts, in the mornings and evenings; and at night with two great worms, in eddies, deeps, ſtill ſtreams, &c. or in the ſame places with artificial flies, moths, nocturnals, owl-flies, &c. in ſtreams with creeper and natural May fly. In the four hot months, when the water is low, and no wind, from nine in the forenoon, till four in the afternoon, under the ſhade of trees, or buſhes, with worms, grubs, beetles, graſshoppers, waſps, bees, &c. or with the wings and head dreſſed, and a briſtle on the back of the hook, with a grub, earth-bob, twinge, &c.

In a word, I uſe them in all kinds of angling, where ſingle hairs are too weak, and much ſtronger tackle neceſſary. Two or three lengths of theſe do exceedingly well, to angle with a float for chub, perch or trout, under buſhes, and for jack or ſmall pike, which cannot bite the briſtle in two, as they will hairs.

When I angle for great fiſh in the deep, in a buſtling wind, I generally have a drop-fly dreſſed to a briſtle, and make a loop at the other end half an inch long, or no longer than juſt to let the fly be put through it upon occaſion. I find, by experience, that it is better to have the drop-fly with a loop to it, as ſmall as poſſible, to admit the loop of a link to be put through it, and then to make a ſingle knot on the link, to incloſe the loop of the drop-fly, and keep it at a proper diſtance from the end fly; this way the ſhort-

fly

fly hangs the looſer on the line, and which is another convenience, may be taken off at pleaſure, and another put on of a more ſuitable make and colour; whereas the other way, you muſt change your whole link.

CHAP. IV.

The Angler's Pocket-Book and Box. How to Make it, and furniſh it with all Materials for preſent Uſe.

THE book itſelf need be no other than a letter-caſe, ſuch as men of buſineſs have to keep their papers in. But, if you like one of my contriving, you muſt make it thus:—Get a piece of fine black calf-leather, ſeventeen inches long, and ſeven inches broad; double it ſo that the two ends may be about an inch from each other; ſtitch it nicely at both ſides, but leave the two ends of it open; you will then perceive how it is to be uſed. Into the two ſides you muſt put an equal number of partitions of fine parchment, fix on each ſide, neatly ſtitched to the bottom of the pockets. One ſide of this book is for fly, the other for bait tackle; which I furniſh thus: In the partition next the outſide, I put two ſtrong lines, of twelve hairs at the top, and ſix at the other end, with neat loops of a little more than half an inch long; a double knot at the top will do well enough: to lengthen theſe lines,

I put in two links of five hairs at the one end, and four at the other, with neat wrapt loops at each end; theſe links I make about four feet long.

In the ſame partition I have two thin parchment covers, ſquare, open at one ſide, in which I put links about a yard and a half long, ſome with one, others with two flies at them, to change at pleaſure with thoſe on the line; and in two other caſes, a dozen or eighteen flies dreſſed to ſilk-worm gut, or to three or four hairs. Theſe four caſes, two of which are juſt the length of the partition, with the two lines and links, are the furniture of the firſt partition for my ſtrong fly tackle.

In the next partition I have the ſame number of lines and links, only the lines have twelve hairs at the top, and three at the bottom, with links and flies ſuitable to them, only about double the number, becauſe more uſed than the larger ones; among theſe I have ſome very fine gut, the reſt three hairs, or two ſtrong ones.

In the third partition I have two lines again, a longer and ſhorter as before, but finer, ten hairs at top, and two at bottom; I have no links to lengthen theſe. All my links are ſingle hairs, with two or three hooks each, about a dozen of theſe in one caſe, and a caſe of flies dubbed, and another of hackles, of a woodcock's wing, &c. In the fourth partition I have ſome folded papers, near the length of the partion, with feathers, ſome pulled from the upper ſide of a woodcock's wing, near the joint, or the ſame place of a moor-pout, or brown chicken,

chicken, as your fancy may ſuggeſt. In another folded paper I have cock's hackles, ſtripped ready for uſe, with tewit toppings, oſtrich's feathers of ſeveral colours, and a few peacock's feathers. In another paper I have feathers for wings, the drake, ſtarling, and of other ſmall birds.

In the fifth partition I have folded papers, with all ſorts of dubbing: In one of the folds, ready mixed for ſeveral flies, writ upon the fold, and a feather or two, fit for the wing of the fly. Among my dubbings I always have theſe:—The ſoft down of an urchin's belly, a young one the beſt, black rabbit, the fineſt of ſwine's down, dyed of ſeveral colours, camel's and bear's hair.

In the next partition I have ſome coils of ſingle hairs, fine Indian graſs, &c. ſilks ready waxed, and wrapped about a bit of card, and in a caſe, oiled, all my hooks of ſeveral ſizes. All cumberſome materials I keep in a box at home.

On the bait ſide of my fiſhing book, I obſerve the ſame method almoſt, as on the fly ſide; my lines made in the ſame manner, but ſhorter, with links to lengthen them upon occaſion.

In the firſt partition, are my two lines for trowling with mannow, ready for uſe.

In the ſecond partition, I have four lines of different length and ſtrength, for brandling, creeper, cod-bait, and grub fiſhing. Which will ſerve alſo for perch, dace, &c.

In the next partition, in two parchment caſes, I have links ready to loop on to the lines, with hooks at them, fit for the ſeveral baits I may have occaſion to uſe.

In the fourth partition, I have two or three finer

finer lines; and in two cases, links with single hairs, when the water is very fine, to fish with natural flies and insects.

In another partition, I have two long and strong lines to fish in eddies, and deep places of pools at night, with dew worms, snails, moths, beetles, &c.

In the sixth partition, I have bait hooks of several sizes, in an oiled parchment; and in a folded paper, I have bits of wash leather, and cork, neatly cut, to imitate cod-bait, straw-bait, &c. I have also Indian grass, silk-worm gut, and links of hair unplaited. When these two sides of my book are closed together, it will be seven inches long, and about five broad, which an angler may carry in his pocket; and I would advise every angler to have such an one, and then he needs not waste any of his time in dressing flies, or wrapping on hooks, or plaiting hairs at the water side.

But though I like this pocket-book very well, yet I have often made use of a tin box, that I had made on purpose. It is about five or six inches in diameter, two inches deep, and has two rings of tin in the inside, fixed to the bottom, and as high as the outside rim. The bigger of these, is an inch and a half from the outer rim: the lesser is two inches over, and has a lid or cover to it.

I can make this box hold all that I have occasion for at any ordinary fishing bout. My great lines, I have with flies and bait hooks at them, in the bigger round; all my links, with flies at them, in the second round; and hooks, silks, wings,

wings, hackles and dubbing, in the little box. There is one convenience in this box, that the flies are not preſſed, or any way cruſhed in it, as they may be, perhaps, in the pocket-book.

CHAP V.

Of Dubbings.

INSTEAD of a great bag full of dubbings, I would rather adviſe the angler to get a quantity of fine ſwine's down, dyed by a ſilk-dyer, of ſeveral colours, viz. three degrees of yellow, two of green, two of brown, &c. and feathers for wings and hackles of the ſame colours. No more of the feathers need be dyed than what may be uſed; all the reſt ſtripped off the quill before.

I have ſeen white oſtrich's feathers, which if dyed of ſeveral colours, would make the bodies of larger flies exceeding well; over which ſilver and gold twiſt, and cock's hackles, would make all kinds of palmers for large fiſh. I would not however, totally diſuſe dubbings, becauſe ſome flies may be imitated by them better than any other thing; and ſome dubbings may be of ſuch orient colours as cannot be dyed. There are ſuch inimitable gildings in ſome inſects, in the head, the eye, and other parts, as no man can conceive, who has not ſeen them through a microſcope; and the legs, horns or whiſks, at their head

head and tail, are ſo tranſparent, that very few things can be got to reſemble them nicely; nothing that is dyed I am ſure can do it.

I met with a beggar once at Durham, that had a ſtrong curled beard; I purſuaded him to let me get it cut off, or ſhaved dry. That furniſhed me with excellent dubbing for ſalmon and large fiſh; and becauſe I had been kind to him, he brought me ſoon after a great quantity of a more ſhining yellow. Some of theſe hairs, which I cut in proper lengths, I mixed with ſoft ſwine's down, or other dubbing, for almoſt every fly I dreſſed. And I made them reſemble the whiſks and the feet of flies to a great nicety.

CHAP. VI.

Of the Landing-Net, Hook, &c.

WHEN I go a fiſhing fully accoutred, eſpecially when I take a friend or boy with me, I have a ſtaff, of fir for lightneſs, about eight feet long, with a good ferule and hoop at the ſmall end, in which I can ſcrew any of the trinkets belonging to it; as firſt a landing net, which I need not deſcribe, being ſo much uſed; or a large long-ſhanked hook, to ſtrike into the gills or head of a large fiſh; I had another ſhaped like a boat hook, with which I could, if faſtened on a root or ſtone, either thruſt off my hook, or pull a root or branch to me; I had

had another ſmaller tool, like a fork, with which, when my hook has been entangled in a tree, by thruſting the fork againſt the twig or branch, and turning it round, I could break off any ſmall branch, and recover my hook along with it.—And when this fork would not do, I had a hook ſharp in the inſide of the bend, to cut of a ſmall branch, root or weed. Theſe I carried in a pocket of my apron, with a neat penknife, and a ſmall pair of ſciſſars, with large rounds to put my thumb and finger into. And I had another, a miſchievous thing, to ſcrew into my pole, like the point of a tuck or ſmall ſword, about five inches long, with which I have, ſometimes, puniſhed a noiſy troubleſome cur, either when riding or walking

This laſt, you will find, a moſt excellent inſtrument to keep of thoſe raſcally poachers called game-keepers, who ſometimes, threaten to break your rod.

CHAP. VII.

Of the Bag and Creel.

I Would have my angler diſtinguiſhed, and known by having all his acoutrements neat and convenient. I do not like to ſee an angler with a piece of ſtocking, or an old night-cap, dangling at a button, with his moſs and worms in it. It is far better to have ſomething like a fiſh-

Fiſh-woman's apron, with three or four pockets in it, to hold moſs and baits of ſeveral kinds, and ſome other neceſſary trinkets.

I have a piece of coarſe cloth, three quarters long, and the ſame in breadth. I double this to within three inches at one ſide; which three inches I double back again, and ſew it all along cloſe to the other doubling, that I may put a belt, which I make of a ſtrong liſting, through it, with a buckle faſtened to one end of it, to buckle on my left ſide. I ſew up the great doubling at each ſide, ſo that the foreſide of it may allow room to put one's hand into the pockets, which will be ten inches deep, and when ſewed up in three places, will make four pockets, of ſix inches breadth each. I need not tell an angler what to put in theſe pockets, only hint to him, that I always had a flat white glaſs bottle, that would hold near a pint, in one of them; which, upon ſome occaſions, would be uſeful.

My creel, I have made a little hollowed, on that ſide next my back, or as I rather chooſe to carry it under my left arm, with the belt over my right ſhoulder. I uſually have a doubled cloth to cover all the hollow ſide of my pannier, to keep the creel from fridging my coat; and open at top, upon occaſion, to put a few night-lines in.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Of Trouts.

WHETHER trouts, I mean the river or burn trouts, are all of one ſpecies, I ſhall not take upon me to determine. In many things they all agree, and in many they differ, in the ſame rivers, and even in the ſame pools; ſo that if the difference was owing to the water or the food, I could not ſay any thing againſt their being of one ſpecies. I believe they ſpawn promiſcuouſly together; the dark ſpotted ſcurf, and the golden ſpotted trout; that which has only a row of bright ſpots down the middle line on its ſides, and that which has alſo three rows of dark ſpots on each ſide, above that line. They are all of much the ſame ſhape, have the ſame number of fins, and in the ſame places. Whether the ſpots make any ſpecific difference, let the curious naturaliſts decide; I make none, but in their ſize and goodneſs.

And in my opinion, the ſo much eſteemed charr, both red and white, is only a meer or marſh trout; and the colour, perhaps, is owing to the ſex. I have taken, in ſeveral rivers in the North of England, trouts as red, as good, and as well taſted as any charr, and have potted them and diſſolved the bones, as theſe of charr are when potted.

I have ſeen many trouts leap at dams about Michaelmas, of ſeveral ſizes, whoſe ſkin has then been of a red or copperiſh colour, without ſpots:

ſpots: I have taken ſome of them, the fleſh like bees-wax, and well taſted. I once took a very large one of this ſort in Coquet, above Rothbury. I had laid a line at the foot of a long deep pool; and in the morning had more trouts than hooks. One of theſe great reddiſh trouts had ſwallowed a little one, of about eight inches, that had taken a minnow, with its head downwards, as they all generally do. I obſerved, that the other trouts three of which were twenty inches, the other three about ſixteen, were very lively and briſk upon the line, but this great one came out like a log of wood; but when he had lain a while upon the ſand, he diſgorged the trout, and then leaped about as cleverly as the reſt. He was twenty-eight inches long, a very thick fiſh, and when he was boiled, cut yellow, but was very well taſted; it was in the middle of April. This, I think is the bull trout, mentioned by ſeveral authors, as an extraordinary fiſh, both in ſize and goodneſs, and no where to be ſeen but in Northumberland.

Mr. Walton ſays, this trout is of a much greater length and bigneſs than any in the Southern parts. I catched a much larger trout than this in September, in the ſame river, near Brenkburn-abbey, that was very near a yard long; but what I took moſt notice of, was the bright ſpots upon the line down the middle of its ſides; by which it appeared to me to be an over-grown burn trout; and neither a ſalmon nor ſalmon-trout, nor the ſame with thoſe two that I thought were the bull-trout.

Mr. Walton mentions another trout, that is called

called the Fordidge trout, from a town in Kent, upon the river, into which it comes at a particular time of the year, and ſtays three months. The townſmen boaſt of it as the beſt of fiſh: ſome of them are near the ſize of a ſalmon, and in their beſt ſeaſon cut very white: none, but one, ever known to be taken by angling: ſtay nine months in the ſea, and three in the river: Mr. Walton does not tell us when it comes into this river, nor where, nor when it ſpawns. The large trout that I took in Coquet in September, with a half fly and a grub, had two bags of roes in it, as ſalmon or ſalmon trouts, &c. have.

There is another trout in Northumberland, which the fiſhermen call a whitling, from twelve to twenty inches long, ſhaped exactly like a ſalmon: it is as red, and eats as well as charr: I have taken many of them with the fly, in the Tweed near Noreham, and ſome in a little river called Wanſbeck, between Morpeth and Shipwaſh-bridge, with night lines, but no where elſe, that I can remember. None of thoſe that I catched had any ſpawn in them, which made me think they were the ſalmon ſmelts, that had been in the ſalt water, and were come up again in the ſame ſummer, and would be the next ſpring what we call a gilſe, or a year-old ſalmon. None of them had any ſpots, either red or black, as the Burn trouts and ſalmon trouts have; and yet the fiſhermen of Tweed were very poſitive that they never grew to be above twenty inches long.

The Burn trout grows faſt, if they have plenty of food and good water: ſeveral experi-

ments have been made in fiſh-ponds; ſome fed by river water, ſome by clear fluent ſprings; into which the young fry has been put at about five or ſix months old, that is in September and October, reckoning from April, when they come out of their ſpawning beds, at which time they will be ſix or ſeven inches long. And though there has been little difference in their age and ſize when put into the pond; yet in eighteen months after there has been a ſurpriſing change. I have ſeen a pond drained ten months after the fiſh were put into it, which was in July, when they were about fifteen months old; at which time ſome of them were fifteen or ſixteen inches, others not above eleven or twelve. This was done only to ſatisfy the Gentleman's curioſity: but when the pond was drained eight months after, in March, when they were almoſt two years old; ſome were twenty-one, or twenty-two inches, and weighed three pounds or more; others were about ſixteen inches, and a fourth part not above twelve. I do not know what we can attribute this difference to. It could not be either in the food, or in the water, or the weather; they faring all alike in theſe. But if I may be allowed my own opinion, perhaps ſome of the fry may have been the ſpawn of thoſe that were only ſeventeen months old, which is the ſooneſt that any of them ſpawn; others of parents twenty-nine months, or two years and a half old; and others a year older. This difference in the age of the parent trouts, may, I believe, occaſion the difference in the ſize of their breed; otherwiſe I cannot account for it.

Trouts

Trouts in a good pond will grow much faſter that in ſome rivers, becauſe they do not range ſo much in feeding: how long they generally live cannot be determined any other way ſo well, as by an obſervation of thoſe that are kept in ponds: which obſervation I never ha a opportun ty of making myſelf, and therefore ſhall only ſay what a Gentleman told me He aſſured me, that at four or five years old, they were at their full growth, which was in ſome about thirty inches, in many much leſs. That they continued about three years pretty near the ſame in ſize and goodneſs: two years after they grew big-headed and ſmaller bodied, and died in the winter after that change.

But he thought the head did not grow greater, but only ſeemed to be ſo, becauſe the body decayed. So that according to this Gen leman's computation, nine or ten years is the term of their life. And yet I think they may live longer in ſome rivers, and grow to a greater ſize, where they have liberty to go into the tide way, and ſalt water. I have ſeen middle-ſized trouts ſpawning in the heads of ſprings, that come out of the rocky mountains near Rothbury, and other places in Northumberland; whoſe water will ſmoke and feel warm for a conſid erableway down the hills: I have wondered how they could get up ſo high, having perhaps ſix or ten leaps of about a yard high. to ſurmount; but in rainy weather, the water above joining with the ſprings, makes great floods, that will continue two or three days; and in May, June and July, I have ſeen every little hole that had ſcarce three or four

pail-fulls of water in them, full of the ſmall fry, not above three or four inches long; that, by degrees, would repleniſh the becks, and theſe the rivers.

CHAP. IX.

The Salmon Trout.

IT differs from the ſalmon in ſo many particulars, that fiſhermen diſtinguiſh them at firſt ſight; and all agree, that they are a diſtinct ſpecies. They are very properly called ſalmon trouts, as reſembling both in ſome things, and differing from both in others. When full grown it is much leſs than a full grown ſalmon, and as much larger than a full grown Burn trout. In its greateſt perfection it does not taſte ſo deliciouſly, nor cuts ſo red as the ſalmon, nor is ſo finely ſhaped; above the line on the middle of its ſide to the top of its back, it has three rows, or a great many dark-coloured ſpots, and the reſt of its body is not ſo bright and ſilver-coloured; but it has no red ſpots either on the line or above it as moſt trouts have. It feeds in the ſame manner, lies in the ſame parts of the ſtream or pool, takes the ſame baits, ſpawns in the ſame places, and at the ſame time with the ſalmon; and comes into the rivers and goes down again to ſea with them, or a little after; though ſome of the leſſer ſort, ſuch I believe as have not ſpawned,

ſpawned, but come up with the bigger ones, will ſtay in the freſh water pools till June: But theſe are not ſo good or ſo well taſted, as thoſe that have been at ſea and are come up again, to recreate themſelves in the rivers.

The ſalmon trout is not a peculiar or native of the four northern counties only, but are common in the ſouthern rivers, though perhaps not in ſuch numbers. In the north our fiſhermen will generally take ſix for one ſalmon or gilſe, and do not value them at half the price.

And now having mentioned the four northern counties, I challenge Mr. Walton, Mr. Cotton, and all the ſouthern writers, anglers, &c. to tell us of ſuch fiſh as we have to boaſt of.

The Fordidge trout muſt, I think, be a fine fiſh, but it makes the angler no ſport, no more than the Shelſey cockle, the Chicheſter lobſter, or the Arundel mullet: I know not what the Amerly trout may do; but can any or all of theſe compare with our Winander-meer charr; our bull-trout, red trout, whitling, &c. They tell us of killing a brace and a half, or ſometimes three brace; we reckon by ſcores, and of as large or larger trouts than Dove, or any river in Hampſhire, &c. can afford. I have with the water cricket in Coquet, at Tod Stead and Brenkburn, in one night killed more than I could lift off the ground. I am aſhamed to tell what execution I have ſometimes done by other methods, though I always catched them with a fair bait; but this only by the by.

I have often obſerved when I have put in a night line, that I have catched the beſt fiſh in

the ſhallows and very near the ſhore; which has made me wonder that ſuch trouts ſhould come there to feed; but I was ſoon ſatisfied about it, as you will perceive by the following ſtory.

A little below Felton, I was ſitting on the bank ſide baiting ſome hooks, and looking upon the water that was very clear and ſhallow at the foot of the pool, I ſaw a great trout come down from the deep; he turned about and lay in the middle of the current at the head of the ſtream below; he made ſeveral ſhoots on both ſides, of a yard or two at a time, in ten or twelve minutes; when, as I ſuppoſe, he had got what he could there, he came up the pool about ten or twelve yards, where it was broader, though not more than half a yard deep, and made a tour firſt to the one ſide, then to the other; making often little excurſions, ſometimes at the top, ſometimes at the bottom: I was highly diverted, and never ſaw a well-trained ſpaniel traverſe a field and queſt more regularly and artfully, than this trout did all the lower parts of this pool; there were ſeveral leſs trouts, but he kept them at a diſtance.

This was in June, when trouts are in their prime: I put in two lines there with eight hooks a-piece, and went up to the high end of the pool where there was a broad ſhallow ſtream, from which about a dozen trouts, upon ſeeing me came down to the deep, two or three of them large ones. I laid two other lines here with eight hooks a-piece; and having ten more baited, I laid two ſhort lines in a little narrow ſtrong ſtream above. I went

I went then up to the town, where two Gentlemen had appointed to meet me, from Morpeth. We ſupped, and drank till twelve; we laid in the ſame room: I got up at four, called the two, but only one would leave his bed ſo ſoon; we got a glaſs of wine, and went down to my lines. I had promiſed them to ſee ſuch fiſhing as they had never ſeen before.

I drew my two ſhort lines, and at the ten hooks got nine trouts, the tenth was broke, four of them eighteen or twenty inches long.

My Gentleman would not be perſuaded to ſtay any longer; ſo we went up to the inn; he awakened his friend, and ſhewed him the trouts, telling him I could catch as many more; he got up, yawned, and ſwallowed a gill of mulled wine; then we went down to my other lines; he ſaid he would have given a crown to have ſeen the nine taken, and could not imagine how it could be done in half an hour's time.

When we came to the two firſt lines, he ſaw the trouts ſtruggling, but did not obſerve the lines: I got twelve at theſe two; three or four of which were about twenty inches: at the other two I got but four, one a ſalmon trout, the other that great trout I had ſeen feeding, as I ſuppoſed, by his ſize, which was twenty-three inches. We dined on trouts; and I ſent my two friends home at three o'clock, with fourteen large trouts, ſuch as they had never ſeen before.

I mentioned this ſtory, becauſe, from that time I formed ſuch an idea of the trouts feeding, that I can tell as ſoon as I ſee any ſtream or pool, where

where the beſt fiſh will feed, and how they ſtation themſelves according to their ſize: and I am perſuaded, if any angler would place himſelf at the head or foot of a pool, and watch two hours, he would be delighted and inſtructed too, as I was; and might ſave himſelf many needleſs caſts, where there are no fiſh; as I have often done myſelf, and ſeen others do.

But though trouts will ſtation themſelves according to their ſize, in the day time, yet, as the great ones do not leave their holds till night, they will then all range about, and feed as they can. for I have often at the ſame time taken ſome twenty inches, and others not above eight or nine And I believe, there are ſome very large trouts, that never come into ſtreams or ſhallows to feed, except in floods.

CHAP. X.

Of the Pink or Brandling Trout:

THERE is a little trout in all rivers, where ſalmon can come up to ſpawn, about which even anglers, and other ingenious and curious perſons have differed in their opinions. This put me upon making what obſervations I could, to find out the true original, and breed of it.

This fiſh, in the ſpring, is very ſmall; differing little in its ſize from the true ſalmon ſmelt, which always goes down to the ſea, with the firſt

or

or ſecond flood that happens in April, or beginning of May: I have obſerved in March, when the ſpawn heaps ſwell to a conſiderable height, and the young fry make their firſt appearance, that many of them had the bag or ſkin of the roe hanging at the vent of them, which had nouriſhed and fed them till they could procure it for themſelves; and then they made to the ſhallows, cloſe to the ſhore, where the larger fiſh could not get to prey upon them: As they grew, they fed greedily in the ſhallow ſtreams till the time I have mentioned.

When theſe ſalmon ſmelts are all gone, and the fry of ſalmon trouts, either along with them, or ſoon after,; between which and the ſalmon fry I could never obſerve any ſpecifick difference; only that it is not ſo finely ſhaped, nor its tail ſo much forked as the ſalmon ſmelt, and its back is of a darker colour: and this, indeed, is all the difference between the ſalmon itſelf, and the ſalmon trout, except further, that the ſalmon trout never grows to ſuch a ſize as the ſalmon will, though I have taken many of them a yard long, and is never, in its beſt ſeaſon, ſo red as the ſalmon, nor of ſo delicious a taſte. When theſe are all gone to ſea, the pink ſtays in the ſtreams all the ſummer.

This pink differs from the ſalmon ſmelt, in its having a row of dark oval ſpots, reaching with the lower end to the lines that goes down the middle of each ſide, which I have not obſerved in any other fiſh whatever. The number of theſe ſpots, I think, is the ſame in all of them, though I cannot now be certain what the number is.

This

This trout has more names than any other fiſh I know; in ſome places it is called the krider, I ſuppoſe from its frequenting ſuch ſhallow places as are commonly called racks. Some call them ſmouts, a vulgar name for ſmelts. Some call them the ſtone trout, for their lying by a ſtone's ſide, and feeding in ſtony ſtreams. Some call them milters, becauſe in the latter end of the year, when the moſt of them are taken, they are full of milt; others call them pinks and brandling trouts.

But although the pink and the ſmelt differ ſo little in ſhape and ſize, yet in ſome particulars they differ ſo much, that it is impoſſible they ſhould be the ſame fiſh. One of theſe is this, that the pink is in its height of perfection and maturity in ſix or ſeven months time being then full of ſpawn, which was never ſeen in any ſmelts; another is, that none of them have ever any roes in them, which, if they were the full ſpecies of ſalmon, ſome of them would have, as well as milts.

And yet, notwithſtanding theſe diſtinguiſhing characteriſticks, I am fully perſuaded, that they are the ſpawn or breed of a ſalmon, by either the he or ſhe parent, but not by both, for then in time it would be a ſalmon: My reaſons are theſe; firſt, becauſe it reſembles a ſalmon more than any other fiſh; ſecondly, becauſe there are never any of them ſeen but where ſalmon are known to ſpawn.

I can give one remarkable inſtance of this, in the river Tees: About three or four miles above Middleham, in Teeſdale, there is ſuch a calcade

or

or fall of water, as I never ſaw any where elſe: The rock is above 20 yards high from one ſide of the river to the other. The pool it falls into has often been plumbed, and all attempts of that kind have failed, to know the depth of it. Below this *Force*, as they call it, there are abundance of theſe pinks all the ſummer, but above it, there never was one of them ſeen.

Three or four miles above this *Force*, there is a lough or black pool about a mile in circumference, full of trouts, black backed and yellow bellied, fat and firm; the neighbouriug people call this place the *Wheel*, through which the Tees runs, and is very clear, both above and below, and only looks red in the lake from the colour of the earth, from whence they dig their peats; from this pool to the head of the river, which is about four miles, there are plenty of trouts, as well as below it, down to the *Force*, but no ſuch thing as a pink.

I could inſtance in ſome other places where ſalmon can get no higher up a river, and where there is plenty of pinks below, but none above.

Another reaſon why I believe the pink is from a ſalmon, is, becauſe they are all milts or he-fiſh; and to be fully ſatisfied in this point, I have taken all the fiſh, that have been in a long ſhallow pool, above five hundred, of which there have not been above twenty ſpotted trouts, all the reſt pinks with milts in them, but not one roe in any of them; ſo that I concluded, it was not a diſtinct ſpecies of trouts, that could propagate its own particular kind; but was produced by ſome heterogeneous ſpawning together of two different ſpecies of fiſh. I ſup-

I ſuppoſe it is this pink, that Mr. Walton tells us of, when he ſays, "There be certain waters "that breed trouts, remarkable both for their "number and ſmallneſs. I know, ſays he, a "little brook in Kent, that breeds them to a "number incredible, and you may take them "twenty or forty in an hour, but none greater "than about the ſize of a gudgeon. There are "alſo in rivers near the ſea, as Wincheſter, or "the Thames about Windſor, a little trout "called a ſamlet or ſkegger trout, that will "bite as faſt and as freely as minnows; they are "by ſome taken to be young ſalmons, but in "thoſe waters they never grow to be bigger than "a herring."

How theſe pinks are bred is ſtill the queſtion; my opinion of it is this: I have ſometimes ſeen a ſhe-ſalmon, that had, as I ſuppoſed, loſt her mate, with two or three milt trouts in a hole, as I thought, ſpawning with her; ſometimes a milter that has loſt his mate, and could not find another in due time, has had two or three ſhe-trouts in the bed with him. I have with a net, taken them of both theſe ſorts, to ſatisfy my curioſity, and releaſed them again immediately; the ſpawn of both kinds iſſuing from them: Of theſe unnatural copulations proceeds the pink; whether it out-lives the winter or not I cannot tell; perhaps it may go down to the ſea about November, when the ſalmon go down when they have ſpawned, and may never return; for I could never ſee one of them in the ſpring, above four inches long.

This little fiſh however affords the angler plenty of

of diverſion from Midſummer to Martinmas, at which time you may kill as many as you will of them, with the half fly and a grub or a maggot.

CHAP. XI.

Of the Spawning of the Salmon, Trout, &c.

HOW the ſeveral ſpecies of ſalmon, ſalmon-trout, burn-trout, or ſpotted trout, and ſome other fiſh, are propagated, I have been not a little inquiſitive and curious in my obſervations. I have ſeen all of them ſpawning ſeveral times with wonder and pleaſure, at the ſurpriſing inſtinct, which the God of nature has given them.

Salmon, and the ſeveral ſpecies of trout, ſpawn generally in September and October, earlier or later, as the ſeaſon is moſt agreeable for that end.

Where plenty of ſalmon are taken in locks or nets, it is eaſy to obſerve when the ſpawn begins to grow in them, which in ſome may be ſeen in the beginning of April, in others not till May; as they have got up the river, and ſpawned, and gone down again to ſea, the preceding year. For ſometimes, there not being proper floods to bring them down to the tide, they will lie a month or ſix weeks in the freſh water pools, in a languid ſtarving condition: And ſuch fiſh will be a month or ſix weeks longer in recovering, when they do get to the ſalt water. From their firſt having milts and roes in them, till

they ſpawn, is generally five or ſix months: In the firſt four of which, they are in their full perfection; as ſeveral other creatures are, whilſt the eggs are growing in them, as in hens, &c. Where there are no dams to ſtop them, as in the Tweed, and moſt of the rivers in Scotland and Ireland, they will change the ſalt for the freſh water ſeveral times in the ſummer, when they taſte a *freſh*, as the fiſhermen call it, that is to ſay, when a great flood and a ſpring-tide reach a good way into the ſea. And as theſe migrations or changes are neceſſary for their health, ſo there are ſome reaſons that in a manner force them to it. For when they have been too long in the ſea, and have laid among the rocks and ſea weed, the ſea-lice get on to them, ſtick ſo cloſe, and make them ſo uneaſy, that they will rub the very ſkin off, where the lice bite them; and nothing cures them of theſe tormentors ſo ſoon as the freſh water: And then again, when they have been about a month in the river, and lie under banks, roots or ſtones, the freſh water-lice creep on to them, and force them to get to ſea again, to be freed from them, which the ſalt water does effectually. And here I muſt obſerve, how this migration of theſe creatures anſwer the ſame end of Providence, with that of woodcocks, quails, &c. and ſeveral kinds of fiſh that go round our iſland at their proper ſeaſons, and furniſh all the neighbouring inhabitants with delicious food.

But the ſea-lice are more troubleſome to the ſalmon, when they grow big-bellied, at the end of Auguſt, and beginning of September, for then

then they are heavier and lazier, and lie more among the rocks, and get the more lice upon them; and this forces them into the freſh rivers upon a double account, to be eaſed of their vermin, and their natural burthen too. At this time, their ſkin grows thicker than in ſummer, and of a duſky copperiſh colour, to make them endure the cold of the winter ſeaſon the better. At this time alſo the milter is eaſily diſtinguiſhed from the roe; for now, at the end of his lower chop, there grows a hard boney gib, from which they are then called the gib-fiſh, larger or leſs, according to the age and ſize of the ſalmon, in ſome above an inch long, and taper. And this gib, as it grows, makes for itſelf a ſocket or hole in the upper jaw, which nails up his mouth when it is ſhut: And beſides, all the fore part of the head is at this time more tough and horny.

This is one of the numberleſs works of the God of nature, by which the fiſh is armed and prepared for the work he has to do, when they come to proper places for ſpawning.

At what particular time they chooſe their mates, and pair like moſt other creatures, none of our books of angling tell us; but I ſuppoſe it muſt be as they come up the rivers, in ſhoals of three or four hundred together. And who knows, but they may keep to their own tribes, and match or chooſe mates among their relations; for it has been obſerved, that ſalmon particularly, and ſalmon-trouts will come up the ſame rivers, and ſpawn in the very ſame places where they were bred; and I am inclined to believe the ſame of

ſome other fiſh, as we read of ſwallows, and other birds of paſſage.

The lighteſt and ſtrongeſt go the fartheſt up the rivers, and the larger and heavier preſs up as far as they can get, if not to the place where they were bred, chooſing large pools, and pretty deep gravelly ſtreams.

As they come up the river, they ſwim cloſe to the bottom, and generally in the middle and deepeſt part of it, making tracks in the gravel and ſand like ſheep tracks, by which we fiſhers know when any ſalmon are in the river; And it has been obſerved, that the pilots or guides, as fiſhermen call them, often come to the top of the water, as if to reconnoitre, if I may uſe a modern military term, and ſee what coaſt they are upon. They ſwim very faſt, and generally more at night than day; and reſt when they come to convenient places, under buſhes, weeds, banks or ſtones, and then the whole ſhoal run again: The reaſon, I ſuppoſe, of their ſwimming in the middle and at the bottom of the river, is, becauſe that part is the leaſt diſturbed by a flood, and there is the ſafeſt and beſt travelling.

They generally chooſe ſtreams to ſpawn in, at the head of great deep pools, both for their own ſecurity from their mortal enemy the otter, and the greater preſervation of the young fry, which we may obſerve in the ſpring, very near the ſhore of thoſe ſtreams where they were bred, waiting for a flood to carry them down.

When the gib-fiſh has found a ſtream that he likes, he makes a hole, as a ſwine works in the ground,

ground, with his noſe, his mouth being nailed cloſe with the gib in its ſocket: When he has made this hole, a yard and a half, or more long, and near a yard broad, he goes down to his mate, under a root or ſtone, and in what manner he makes his addreſſes to her, I cannot tell, but I have often ſeen the gib-fiſh ruſh at his mate, as if going to bite her, joſtling her ſometimes on one ſide, then on the other, chaſing her from place to place, as we ſee a cock-pigeon does the hen to her neſt, till they come to the marriage-bed, he has been preparing for her; where they lie at the lower end of it, cloſe by the ſide of each other, and preſſing their bellies, hard to the bottom, wriggle on to the top of the bed, ſqueezing out the ſpawn from both of them, at the ſame time, with emotions and ſigns of pleaſure. All the roes that are ſmit or touched by the milt, which is of a viſcous quality, ſink among the little ſtones and gravel; and thoſe that are not touched with it, are carried down the ſtream, and are delicious food for the many trouts that are watching the opportunity: Then the ſhe fiſh leaves her mate, chaſing away the ſmall fiſh, whilſt the gib-fiſh is working at the head of the bed, covering up the ſpawn with the gravel and ſand, which he throws up with his head, making at the ſame time a new bed, and filling up the other.

This he does all by himſelf; for I never ſaw the ſhe fiſh along with the he, when he was making a new hole at the head of the other. Sometimes I have ſeen him lie ſtill in the hole,

as if reſting himſelf, and then in an hour or two brings up his mate again, and do as before.

If it is rainy or hazy weather, they will be three or four nights in finiſhing their work, but froſty weather puts them in a hurry, and they will have done in two nights or leſs, and haſten down to their holds, and take the firſt opportunity to get to ſea.

In this manner ſalmon, ſalmon-trouts, and I believe all other trouts, ſpawn; and other fiſh that ſpawn in the ſtreams, uſe much the ſame, or ſuch like method in making beds, and covering up their ſpawn.

I have been the more particular in this article, becauſe I have ſeen it often done, and in many places, both in the evenings and mornings, and ſometimes at night, with lights. Sometimes a ſalmon loſes its mate, before they have done ſpawning, it being ſtruck with a leiſter, &c. and yet the gib-fiſh has brought up another in two or three hours time to ſpawn with him: Whether there has been any ſupernumary ſhe's in the pool, or he has taken, by violence, another's mate, I cannot tell; but I have a better opinion of our noble ſalmon, than to ſuſpect him of ſuch injuſtice.

I have ſometimes known the gib-fiſh caught at ſpawning time, and the ſhe has got a mate; or elſe two other ſalmon have taken poſſeſſion of their works, and finiſhed them out.

A ſalmon-ſpawn heap will be three yards or more in length, and two feet or near a yard broad, and looks like a new made grave.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

Of Fly Fiſhing. How to dreſs all Sorts of Flies for every Kind of Fiſh that will take a Fly.

ALTHO' there are a great many who make it their buſineſs and livelihood to dreſs flies, and other tackle for ſale; and any angler may be furniſhed with what he pleaſes from London, York, Carliſle, and many other places; yet I think it is ſcandalous in a profeſſed angler, not to make the moſt part of his own tackle himſelf, ſuch as rods, lines, flies, and ſome other things. Indeed, for hooks, engines for twiſting lines, wheels for ſalmon rods, pike tackling, and a few more, they are cheaper bought than made, and perhaps better.

And though ſalmon flies are more beautiful dreſt at theſe places, than common anglers can pretend to do them, yet I think they are more eaſily made than a midge or ſmall fly.

The largeſt fly that is dreſt for ſalmon, is in imitation of one that is vulgarly called the flying adder; and it is a vulgar notion indeed, though I have known ſome afraid of being ſtung by them. They are the pond or marſh fly, that may be ſeen in all the hot months, near ſuch places, where they are bred. It has a broad thick protuberant head and ſhoulders, ſome of a golden colour, ſome a bright brown, with long large diaphænous or tranſparent wings, and a long ſmall body, of a ſhining blueiſh colour. They exclude their eggs among the roots of graſs, &c.

&c. that grow in the mud, which in proper time becomes a leech, of which there are ſeveral kinds, as many as of their parent flies. The horſe leech is the largeſt of theſe erucas, as the fly is the largeſt of that genus or tribe.

Indeed I don't know how many ſpecies there are of that tribe; I have catched ſix or ſeven of them of different ſizes and colours, and dreſt them as near the life as I could. I have ſeen them engender, the male on the back of its mate, faſt at the tail ends. In imitation of which attitude, I ſuppoſe it is, that our fly-makers dreſs them with double wings.

As the bodies of theſe flies are long and ſmall, the hook muſt be long ſhanked: I dreſs it with peacock's feathers, over which I wrap the hackles of a black cock, for it will take three or four of them, and five or ſix of the ſtrains of a peacock's feather. I generally make double wings for this fly, the under pair only half the ſize, and to lie not much off from the body of the fly, the dubbing between theſe wings and the other, I make a bright brown of ſwine's down, dyed that colour; the upper wings are the dark mottled drake's feather, or a turkey's tail, the head yellow, mixt with a little brown; ſometimes I have beads to imitate the eyes.

But there is a much larger fly than this, though not common in this part of the world, yet too well known in ſome countries; the locuſt I mean, which reſembles this fly very much: and I ſuppoſe there may be many ſpecies of that deſtructive inſect, from the frequent diſmal accounts we

we read of the devaſtations it makes, and of their differing in ſize, ſhape, and colour.

The larger ſort of theſe imitated, could not fail of doing execution in large rivers, and the leſs in leſs rivers. And yet, I think, we have flies enow in our iſland, by imitating which, a judicious angler may ſucceed well enough. I ſhall mention ſome of them, and how to dreſs them.

The green drake, the whirling-dun, the ſtone or may-fly, the hornet, the waſp, the owl-fly, and ſeveral others. Some of theſe dreſſed a third, or, for ſome rivers, twice as big as the life, I am ſure will do in all our Northern rivers. The three firſt of them are natural baits, being bred in rivers, and where, for that reaſon, ſalmon and trout will take them the better.

The green-drake is bred of the caddis or ſtraw-bait. She excludes her eggs upon bits of ruſhes, bents, ſtraws, ſticks, &c. in ſtill or ſlow-running bye-places in rivers, in ditches, &c. In March, you ſee them creeping about in ſuch places, with their head and ſhoulders out of their caſes, and may eaſily take them up, with a ſmall ſtick cleft at the end; the caſe is compoſed of ſuch things as the egg, with a glutinous matter about it, firſt touches: It lies near a whole year, growing gradually, and its caſe enlarging as it grows, and about the latter end of March, it creeps quite out of its huſk, upon the bank among the graſs or weeds, till its cramped wings will carry it out of the reach of its enemies. It is of a bright greeniſh colour, inclining to a pale yellow; it is above an inch long; its wings are pretty large, and when it ſits, they ſtand up cloſe at the ends, like

like the butterfly's; they fly clumſily like the butterfly, but far higher in the air, and turn up their tails, at the end of which they have three hairs near a inch long, of a brown colour; from which they are called the green-drake.

To dreſs this fly nicely, either for ſalmon or large trout, you muſt have a long-ſhanked Gilſe hook, for the wings a grey mallard's feather dyed yellow; the ſoft down of a ſwine dyed the ſame colour by a ſilk-dyer; camel's and bear's hair, or urchin's belly; mix them well, and to imitate the ribs or joints of the fly, uſe green ſilk, with yellow wax, or rather yellow ſilk with green wax, and for the whisks of its tail, the beard hairs of a black cat, ſpaniel's tail, &c.

My angler is to underſtand me, in my directions how to dreſs theſe flies, as both for ſalmon and trout; only thoſe for ſalmon much larger; and to ſix or nine hairs according to the river; thoſe for trout to three, four, or five.

The codbait fly, commonly called the whirling dun, from his colour and manner of flying, is in ſize much the ſame as the green drake. This fly fixes her eggs to the underſide of a flat ſtone, that lies hollow, in, or by the ſide of a ſtream, in little brooks or becks, about the latter end of May, or beginning of June. The ſmall gravel, brought down with the ſtream, ſticks to the glutinous matter, with which the eggs are fixed to the ſtone, and make a beautiful caſe or husk, which grows as the eruca grows, ſticking to the ſtone all the winter, and till April, and ſometimes May; when you may ſee eight or a dozen of them, with their heads towards the ſtream in a row,

a row, watching for ſuch food as it brings down to them. They turn yellow before they leave the huſk, and are an excellent bait for moſt ſorts of fiſh, either by itſelf on a briſtled hook, or with a head and wings.

The whirling dun, or codbait fly, I dreſs for large fiſh, a third or more larger than the life. The body of the down of a foxcub, or bear's or camel's hair, and half as much ſwine's down dyed yellow; or you may have ſwine's down exactly of the colour, The wing, a wild drake's feather, dyed yellow, pretty large, and to ſtand up on the back of the fly. I dreſs a hackle to imitate this fly, of the woodcock's feather, wrapt ſix or ſeven times round for the wings, and the ſame dubbing for the body. Theſe two large flies come in ſeaſon the latter end of April, and continue 'till the middle of June; ſometimes the green drake will be the more early fly, and in ſome places the other.

Bnt there is another fly much larger than theſe two, which makes her appearance about the middle of May, and continues till the middle of June: It is called in ſome places the ſtone fly, and the trout fly, and every where the May fly, It is bred much in the ſame manner as the codbait fly, only the whirling dun fixes her eggs to the ſtone, and the May fly, lays hers among the ſand, under a ſtone; the firſt is bred in little becks or burns, the other in rivers: The eruca of the firſt is a codbait; the eruca of the other is the creeper or water cricket, of which I ſhall here give my reader a full account.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

Of the Creeper or Water Cricket.

I AM not ſo vain as to think no other anglers have made ſuch uſeful diſcoveries and improvements in the art of angling, as I have done: however, as I have not heard or read of any ſuch, I ſhall, for the benefit of the ſociety, inform my reader how I came to know this bait, and how I fiſh with it.

I have often in the mornings catched trouts, with their bellies very full, and when I had cut out the maw, to ſee what they have fed on, have obſerved more of theſe creepers than any other thing; ſome of them half digeſted, ſome newly taken, upon which I concluded, that theſe baits might be found in the ſtreams where I catched the trouts; and turning up ſome ſtones by the ſide of the ſtream, I found ſeveral of them, and putting one of them on my brandling hook, I got a good trout with it at the firſt trial: You may believe that I was pleaſed at this diſcovery; and found it the moſt killing bait I had ever fiſhed with before: but they were ſoon gone, and in three weeks after I could not ſee one of them; only, here and there the ſkin ſticking upon a ſtone.

I obſerved, however, that under the ſtones where I uſed to find them, there were great flies; ſome with ſhort thick wings, ſome with very long double wings; I got ſeveral of theſe, and fiſhed with them as I had done with the creeper, and with

with as good ſucceſs, 'till about the middle of June, when they are all gone too.

For many years after, I made further diſcoveries and improvements relating to this bait. They are not to be met with in every river, nor in every ſtream in rivers where they are bred; nor where they are in the greateſt plenty, any longer than five or ſix weeks at the moſt; for about the middle of May they take wing, and for 14 or 18 days, while their wings are growing, and when they are creeping about the ſtones at the ſides of the ſtreams, they may be got, and fiſhed with as the creeper, if you nip or clip off the greateſt part of their long wings. When theſe creepers grow plentiful in the ſtreams, the trouts begin to grow good; and I have obſerved them the ſooneſt red and in their perfection where they have the greateſt plenty of this food in particular.

It is beſt to get theſe creepers when you are going to uſe them, if you have a boy with you to catch them for you, though they may be kept two or three days. You are to ſeek for them, as I ſaid before, in any ſhallow ſtony ſtream, near the water's edge; and you muſt be very nimble in catching them, for they will creep very faſt among the ſand and gravel, and get under other ſtones.

You muſt have a horn ready to put them into as you get them. I make mine of a common powder horn, as wide at the ſmall end as to take a quart bottle cork: I burn or bore 10 or 12 holes through it, to let them have air, but not ſo wide that they can creep through them; near the

top of the horn I make two holes on one ſide, to put a ſmall cord through, which I ſometimes hang at a button; and another hole, through which I put another ſmall cord, with a knot in the inſide of the horn, and the other end of it to go through the cork: I ſometimes put a little ſand into the horn, and put it in water with the creepers, when I am not uſing them. Though the creeper does but continue a little while, five weeks at moſt, yet for that time and a fortnight more, while the wings are growing, there is no bait whatever, with which the angler may do more execution, or take larger fiſh.

Your rod needs be no other, than that you uſe for fly or brandling: your line as long as the rod, with two hairs next the hook, if you uſe hairs, either open or gently plaited: but I would rather recommend a fine Indian graſs, or a clear round ſilk worm gut, or a fine ſmall ſwine's briſtle. Your hook muſt be long ſhanked, and you may wrap it on thus: I begin to wrap on my hook a little above where it begins to bend, and when I have done the ſilk eight or nine times round, I take a bit of fine briſtle, or a ſtrong hair, cutting it a little ſloping at the end, like the ſplice of a rod, and put that end on the back of the hook, and continue wrapping both that and the line ſix times more round the hook; then I lift up the briſtle or hair, and cut it off ſlopewiſe, a ſtrawbreadth or a little more from the hook, and wrap on to within a very little of the ſhank end, where I tie on a bit of dark red dubbing, to keep the creeper from ſlipping up on the line. I put the hook in at its mouth, and

out

out at the tail, and make it lie ſtreight on the ſhank of the hook, and not ſlip down into the bend of the hook, by making the point of the briſtle ſtrike through its back.

Fiſh the ſtream, as you find it moſt convenient not to be ſeen of the fiſh, though up the water is much the beſt upon many accounts: you muſt have a pellet of N°. 4, on your line, ſeven or eight inches above the hook; don't let it ſink lower than mid-water; and then whenever it ſtops, ſtrike gently, you may be ſure it is a fiſh, and draw him down the ſtream, and ſo you will not diſturb thoſe above you.

This is a moſt killing way from day light till nine o'clock, and in the evening as long as you can ſee; keep your rod top directly above your hook as it comes down the ſtream, and ſo there will ſeldom be above half a yard of it in the water.

As this bait laſts ſo ſhort a time, you may uſe it in the heat of the day, in ſhade or buſh fiſhing, though the May fly will do better at that time, and alſo at the top of the water of any ſtrong ſtream, eſpecially where it runs cloſe to buſhes that hang over the water. The May fly lives but a little while, after ſhe is full winged, and leaves the water, not three weeks, juſt to engender, which they do in ſuch a manner that the wind will carry the couple a great way, whilſt they fly, as it were, the contrary way to each other, till both fall together on ſome pool, where they make a delicious morſel for the firſt fiſh that ſees them. If they eſcape being taken, ſhe lays her eggs, 70 or 80, under or by the ſide of a ſtone, where

the ſand and gravel will ſoon cover them; here they grow till the ſpring, creeping and feeding among the gravel, and under ſtones, till they change their larva, and become flies.

This fly is not ſo eaſily dreſſed as the green drake or whirling dun, the belly being much yellower than the back. Though Mr Cotton miſtakes this fly, and ſuppoſes it to be bred of the codbait, and calls it the ſtone fly; yet his deſcription of it is exactly juſt, and his materials for dreſſing it may do; yet, I think, either bright bear's dun, or camel's hair, with ſoft ſwine's down, dyed yellow, or yellow camblet, will do it better; and ſome of this dubbing muſt have more yellow in it, and be laid artfully on the under-ſide of the fly, as you wrap on the other; the wings muſt be longer than the body; and of the dark mottled drake's feather, or of one dyed a dark brown; the hairs at his head and tail are eaſily imitated.

I have dreſſed this fly twice as big as the natural fly, and fiſhed for ſalmon trouts, in a great wind, and have killed very large fiſh.

The wing feather of a pheaſant will do for this fly, the whirling dun, the oak fly, the cinnamon coloured fly, and ſome other large ones, palmers, &c.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

Of the Palm or Goſling Fly.

SOME think this fly is bred in the buds of the willow or palm-tree; and I cannot ſay it is not, though I have ſeen in the water under ſtones, a bright ſmall eruca, very near the colour of it; which I ſuppoſe to be that fly, and when it left the water, fed upon the willows. I have catched ſome of theſe erucas, and put two of them upon a fine hook, but they were too ſmall and tender to do any execution with.

There are three ſpecies of flies about this ſeaſon, that are killing flies, when the water is fine. The firſt has a pale yellowiſh wing, which may be exactly ſuited by the wing or tail feather of the green linnet, or any ſmall bird of that colour. The body you may make of goſling-down itſelf; though I like very ſoft ſwine's down, or yellow yarn better.

The ſecond is a brighter yellow, for which you ſhould have a fine feather dyed yellow, with dubbing of the ſame colour.

The third is as bright a yellow as can be ſeen; its wings ſtand ſtreight upon its ſhoulders; its tail is forked and turns up, almoſt to touch its wings. This, I think, is eaſieſt and beſt imitated with a bright yellow cock's hackle, and nothing but the unwaxed yellow ſilk for the body; you may cut off ſome of the hackle on the under-ſide of the fly. Theſe three in April and May, dreſſed to a ſingle hair, will be taken

in a fine water and ſhallow ſtreams, when trout and grayling will not ſtir at a large fly.

I once met with a young Gentleman at Rothbury; who fiſhed chiefly with one of theſe yellowiſh flies; and was very nice in dreſſing them; he made the wings to lean back to the ſhank end of the hook, and always fiſhed ſtraight down the ſtream; which put the wings into their true poſture: He got many *riſes*, as he called them, but ſeldom hooked a fiſh. I told him of his fault, and fiſhed the ſame ſtream, drawing my fly acroſs it; and ſeldom miſſed a fiſh. This Gentleman had a bag of *trumpery* hanging at his ſide, as big as his creel; and ſpent more that half of his time in changing and dreſſing; he ſaid, it was their way in the ſouth.

I own, I do not like to fiſh with a ſingle fly, though, ſome nice anglers pretend, it is the beſt way: And, if my obſervations are good, you will be of my opinion.

When a fly lights upon the water, and the ſtream brings it down, it is always in its natural or ſitting poſture, with its wings cloſe on its back, or by its ſides, according to its ſhape and make; but when the ſame fly is flying, it looks quite otherwiſe; and to dreſs one to reſemble it as flying, is, I think, more curious than to dreſs the other.

And this is my reaſon for making the end fly a dubbed one, and the upper, or drop fly, a hackle: And the beſt way to do this, is to chooſe the hackle as near the colour of the wings of the fly, as they appear when flying, as poſſible. The woodcock's wing will furniſh you with variety enough.

When

When I fiſh with theſe flies, I let one of them, the hackle or drop-fly, only touch the top of the water; the uppermoſt only ſometimes; for I have obſerved, that the fiſh ſtrike the boldeſt at thoſe flies, that do not touch the water; becauſe they appear to be upon the wing, and are making their eſcape from them. But the end fly I let ſink two or three inches ſometimes, having obſerved, that it is often better taken a little under water, than on the very ſurface, the reaſon of which, I ſuppoſe, is, that theſe flies are bred in the water, under the ſtones and among the gravel; and as ſoon as their wings are grown, they come to the top of the water, before they can fly, and are an eaſy prey to the lazy trouts, who feed on them under the ſurface.

The beſt way, in my opinion, of putting one or two drop-flies on your link, is to make the hair you dreſs it to, only about four inches long, with a loop neatly wrapped, no longer than juſt to put the loop of your fly-link through it; and when it is placed at a proper diſtance from the end fly, to make a double knot upon the fly-link, in which you muſt incloſe the loop of your bob-fly; which will then hang perpendicular from the line, and more looſe and free, than when it is dreſſed upon the end of a long hair, and ſo made a part of the link.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

Of the Twinge, Earwig, or Twichbell.

THIS is an inſect that reſembles the creeper, or water-cricket; well known to gardeners, eſpecially the floriſts, to whom it is very troubleſome, creeping up the ſtalks of flowers, and eating into the very heart of them. I have often gone to ſuch places of a river, where I could get no creepers; which has been a great diſappointment to me, though never unprovided with other baits.

As I was once ſeeking for grubs, I ſaw three or four of theſe twinges, which I catched and put into my creeper-horn; I put one of them on my hook, as I uſed to do a creeper, and catched a trout with it; which encouraged me to make further trials, with pretty good ſucceſs; and when the creeper ſeaſon was over, I have uſed the twinge in ſtream and ſhade-fiſhing. I generally put them on a hook with a pair of wings, and a briſtle to keep it up, and make it look like the body of a fly, and have got good fiſh with them. I would not, however, recommend this as an extraordinary killing bait; but only as a thing that may be uſed upon occaſion, when better baits are not to be had.

CHAP. XVI.

Of the Grub, or Earth-bob.

THERE is a conſiderable part of the fiſhing ſeaſon, in which the grub is an excellent bait, but I chooſe to uſe it only when trouts will take nothing better, or ſo well; and that is after midſummer. There are many ſorts of them, as many as there are ſpecies of beetles; for they are all the erucas of that tribe of inſects, and differ in their ſize and colour, according to the ſpecies of their mother beetle or clock.—— Thoſe commonly uſed by anglers, are the earth-bob, and the cowturd-grub.

The earth-bob is bred in old paſture grounds; and may be got in great plenty when ſuch paſtures are ploughed up. You may know where and when to find them by the crows following the plough, and filling their throats with them to carry to their young. This grub is much larger than the other, and may be kept in a tub or jar, with ſome of the earth in which they are bred.

They are chiefly uſed in float-fiſhing for chub, dace, &c. though a trout will take it very well, if uſed and fiſhed with as the cod-bait. I often fiſh with it in the ſhade under buſhes, with a ſhort ſtrong line, by itſelf or with a pair of wings on a briſtled hook, on the top of the water; ſometimes in ſtrong ſtreams, and in the deeps in a ruffling wind.

The leſſer grub is bred in cow plats, the beetle

beetle excluding her eggs on them when newly dropped; as they grow, they creep into the plat, which cruſts over with the heat of the ſun and wind, and preſerves them as long as there is any moiſter in the plat, and then they eat their way through it into the earth, and may be dug up there, when the plat is quite dried and gone. It is in perfection for the angler when it is white, or of a cream colour, that is, when they are eating holes through the plat. When you gather theſe, you muſt keep them in moſs, as you do worms; but do not put your line into the bag where they are, as anglers often do in their brandling-bag, for the grubs will eat it in pieces in a night's time.

You may angle with this grub on a ſmall briſtled hook, with a float, at mid water, in ſtreams or in eddies, but you muſt have a fine line of ſingle hair for a yard next the hook. My common way of uſing it, is on a half fly, with a briſtle to ſtrike through its neck, and before I put it on, I hold it between the thumb and fore finger of my left hand, and with the point of my hook put into its tail, and ſqueezing it gently, draw out the dirt that is in it.

This is an excellent bait for ſmall fiſh, eſpecially, the brandling-trout in ſhallow ſtreams: I generally have a ſmall hackle-fly about two feet above it.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVII.

Of the Gentle or Maggot.

EVERY one knows how theſe miſchievous creatures are bred; and they are a common bait for dace, roach, chub, &c. but I ſeldom uſe them any other way than as the grub, on a briſtled hook, and a half fly. I keep them in bran till full grown, within a day or two of their turning to an aurelia, when they grow rough; and I generally put the point of a needle or pin in at the thick end of it, and then put my hook in at that hole, and quite through at the ſmall end, and thruſt it on till part of it is beyond the briſtle, to ſtrike through the middle of it.

With the grub or this maggot, when the ſhallow ſtreams are full of brandling-trouts, I have often in the Coquet, catched three or four hundred in four hours time.

CHAP. XVIII.

Of Salmon-Roe.

THE beſt time to get this bait is when the ſalmon are full bellied, a little before they ſpawn: There are ſeveral ways of managing and keeping it; ſome boil it a little, and ſalt it; ſome only lay it on a board or trencher to dry, and

and turn it over ſeveral times to keep it ſweet; others when it is a little dried, put it in a woollen bag, and hang it up where the gentle warmth of the fire will preſerve it: The laſt method is the beſt.

The time of fiſhing with it is, when the ſalmon are ſpawning; and as that ſeaſon will continue a month or more, ſo long it is a killing bait, when the water is a little flooded, and even when it is white, and a high water.

All ſcaled fiſh are to be taken with it, where any of them are in trout-rivers, below the ſtreams, where the water runs gently, or in eddies; but trouts will come up to the ſpawning beds, and there watch its coming down the ſtream, and feed greedily. Eels are very fond of it, and will creep even into the ſpawn-heaps, and devour it.

I muſt own it is a pity to use this bait, upon many accounts; as it cannot be procured without deſtroying thouſands of that valuable fiſh; and as moſt fiſh, eſpecially trouts, are then alſo kipper; and though there are ſeveral gelt trouts that do not ſpawn at that time, which, like the barren doe, are then in their perfection, yet their number being ſmall, not above one in ten, in compariſon of thoſe that are full of ſpawn: by taking of which, the breed of trouts is likewiſe deſtroyed; I ſay, therefore, no generous angler ſhould, for the ſake of half a dozen good trouts, kill ſixty bad ones, and in them as many thouſand young.

I ſhall not, for theſe reaſons, give any directions how to uſe this bait; though I have often killed fiſh with it in winter, when they would take

take nothing elſe, or half ſo well. And it is my opinion, that when ſcaled fiſh take paſtes, they miſtake it for the ſpawn of other large fiſh; or for the grubs and erucas that drop from the banks, of trees and buſhes that hang over the river ſides.

CHAP. XIX.

Of Buſh or Shade Fiſhing.

AS I have been walking by the river's ſide in clear ſun ſhiny days, when I was tired with catching the ſmall fry in the ſtreams, I have obſerved large trouts run from under the ſhade of buſhes, that hang over a yard or two upon the pools: I longed to have ſome of theſe; and after many ineffectual eſſays, and ſeveral trials, I contrived at laſt to catch the beſt trouts that were in the pool. I own, I took the hint from Mr. Walton's directions how to fiſh for the chub, but found many difficulties, that he does not ſeem to have met with. I ſhall not mention all thoſe difficulties, but only tell my angler for his encouragement, that if he will follow my directions; he may fill his pannier with great trouts, when other anglers are ſleeping or ſmoaking their pipes.

I generally begin fiſhing in the ſhade, or under buſhes, in May, and continue it all the three following months, which we call the four hot

months: Moſt anglers in thoſe months fiſh only in the mornings and evenings, unleſs the ſky is cloudy, and there is a briſk wind, on the pools; for then one may have very good ſport and kill large fiſh.

In theſe months, when there is no wind, and the ſun is ſhining, from about ten o'clock in the morning, till four or five in the afternoon, is the beſt time for ſhade fiſhing; but before you try this way, if you expect to ſucceed, you must be furniſhed with ſuch tackling as I always uſe.

First, you muſt have a rod about twelve feet long, with a good ſtiff top of what wood you pleaſe; hazle, I think is as good as any for this purpose. Then you muſt have a bag of well ſcoured maiden lobs, ſod worms and brandlings; another little bag with codbaits, earth grubs, cow-plat grubs, &c. and a horn with May flies, as long as they are to be found, beetles, large moths, nocturnals, &c. ſome of theſe, however, you ſhould have.

Next, for your line you must provide good ſtrong Indian graſs, or ſilk worm gut; though I would rather recommend a fine ſilk line; but as the beſt of all, a line made of ſwine's briſtles.

Your line ſhould not be above a yard long; and where there is ſome difficulty in getting your rod-top through the buſhes, not above half a yard, which, when baited, you may wrap looſely ſeven or eight times about the rod top; and when you have thruſt it beyond the buſh, turn your rod round as many times, and let your bait drop into the water,

There is a great deal of caution neceſſary in managing

managing your rod and line. Some pools are ſhaded only here and there with a buſh or two, in ſuch places you may fiſh with a line a yard or more, long; but you muſt be ſure to make your approach to ſuch open places cautiouſly; for the great fiſh lie very near the top of the water, watching the fall of flies or other inſects from the buſhes, where they are bred or harboured: and though you do not ſee them, yet they will ſee you at your firſt coming, and ſcud away into the pool, and not return, perhaps, in an hour's time.

I have been often agreeably amuſed, ſitting behind a buſh, that has hung over the water two yards or more, and obſerving the trouts taking their rounds, and patrolling in order, according to their quality. Sometimes I have ſeen three or four private men coming up together under the ſhade; and preſently an officer or man of quality, twice as big, comes from his country ſeat, under a bank or great ſtone, and ruſhes among them as furiouſlly as I once ſaw a young juſtice of the peace do to three poor anglers; and as I cannot approve of ſuch proceedings, I have with ſome extraordinary pleaſure revenged the weaker upon the ſtronger, by dropping in my bait half a yard before him; with what an air of authority and grandeur have I ſeen the qualified, what ſhall I call him, extend his jaws and take in the delicious morſel, and then marching ſlowly off in queſt of more, till ſtopped by a ſmart ſtroke which I have given him; though there is no occaſion to do ſo in this way of fiſhing, for the great ones always hook themſelves.

And here I adviſe the buſh-angler never to let the fiſh get down his head, unleſs he is ſure there are no roots near enough for him; but to keep him at the top of the water, where his fins and ſtrength are of little ſervice to him; and beſides, he may thruſt out his rod to reach beyond the buſh, and there work him till he is quite tired and lies ſtill. If you have a boy or companion with you, you may call him; when I have any ſuch, I give them a long pole, like the root of a fiſhing rod, with a large ſtrong hook, either to ſcrew into the ſmall end of it, or to wrap on to it; ſometimes I have a landing net to ſcrew into the ſame pole, which ſhould be two yards and a half long. For the more ſafety, I uſed to take the landing of the fiſh into my own hand.

There are ſome other obſervations I have made, which the angler may find the benefit of. One is, that although the ſhade of trees and buſhes are much longer and greater on the ſouth or ſun ſide of the river, than on the north, yet I always found the moſt and the largeſt trouts on that ſide; I ſuppoſe the ſun's being more intenſe and warm on the north ſide, may occaſion more flies, erucas and inſects to creep upon thoſe buſhes, and conſequently the more fiſh will frequent them.

Where the trees or buſhes are very cloſe, I adviſe the buſh angler to take a hedging-bill or hatchet, and cut off two or three branches here and there, at proper places and diſtances, and ſo make little convenient openings, at which he may eaſily put in his rod and line; but this is to be done ſome time before you come to fiſh there.

It

If you come to a woody place, where you have no ſuch conveniences, and where, perhaps, there is a long pool and no angling with the fly or throwing the rod; there you may be ſure of many and large fiſh. For that very reaſon I have choſen ſuch places, though very troubleſome; where I have been forced to creep under trees and buſhes, dragging my rod after me, with the very top of it in my hand, to get near the water; and I have been well paid for all my trouble: Whilſt you are getting in your rod, throw a brandling or grub, or what you fiſh with, into the place, which will make the fiſh take your bait the more boldly.

There is one bait with which I have killed greater fiſh than any other; I dreſs my hook with a brown or dark head, and with a pretty large wing, of a motled drake's feather, or a ſtarling's wing, and a briſtle on the back of the hook; I uſually put on a large grub or cod-bait, beetle or graſshopper, &c. and have had a little bottle with oil of ivy, diſſolved aſſafœtida, or other ſtrong ſcented oil, and dipped the end of this bait into it; and I have never know a fiſh refuſe it, that has not ſeen me, or been chaſed away.

There are ſome pools that have no buſhes at all, but only hollow banks in ſome places, under which the great fiſh will lie in the day time; I have gone ſoftly to ſuch places, and have dropped in a ſuitable bait cloſe by the bank, and have preſently had a good fiſh. When I uſe cork, ſhammy or buff, inſtead of natural baits, I always dip them in ſome ſtrong ſcented oil, in ſhade fiſhing; becauſe the fiſh come ſlowly to the bait, and if it

does not ſmell ſomething like the natural bait, will not take it, though well imitated.

CHAP. XX.

Of Angling with Minnow.

WITH this bait the angler may take the beſt trouts in a ſtream, if he knows when and how to fiſh with it. I ſhall tell you the ſeveral ways that are commonly uſed by our beſt anglers, and then my own method; that the angler may try and chooſe which he likes beſt. Mr. Walton directs to bait thus:

"Take a middle-ſized, bright minnow, put your hook in at its mouth, and out of its gill, then having drawn the hook two or three inches through the gill, put it again into his mouth, and the point and beard out at his tail; then tie the hook and his tail together neatly with a white thread, which will make it turn quick in the water. Then pull back that part of the line which was ſlack, when the hook was put into the minnow's mouth the ſecond time, which will faſten the head, and the minnow will be almoſt ſtreight on the hook. This done, try how it will turn by drawing it acroſs the water, or againſt the ſtream; and if it does not turn quick enough, then turn the tail a little to the right or left hand and try it again, till it turns faſt enough."

This

This method of Mr. Walton's may be altered, by putting the hook at firſt in at the underſide of the minnow's under chap, and quite through the upper chap too, then draw it two or three inches on to the line, and put the hook in at the mouth, &c. this will keep the minnow's mouth cloſe, which otherwiſe ſhould be ſtitched up.

I ſaw a Gentleman once fiſhing in a deep ſtrong ſtream with a minnow, he ſtruck upon a trout's taking the bait, but not giving him time to gorge, he loſt the fiſh. I ſaw him put on a freſh bait; he had two middle-ſized hooks, the one at the end of his line, the other an inch above it; he put the firſt hook in at the minnow's ſide near the middle, and the other he put in near the tail, and the point and beard of it out, where he put in the firſt hook. Then he put a ſwan ſhot into the minnow's mouth, and ſtitched it up with a white thread; he threw in at the top of the ſtream, and let it go down then pulled it up again, and let it ſink as before. I told him, I thought it would do better to bait the contrary way; and put the firſt hook in at the middle of the minnow, and out at the tail; and the ſecond hook in at the mouth, and out at the middle, and then ſtitch up the mouth as before; then draw the bait with its head foremoſt againſt or acroſs the ſtream: He tried this way and liked it better; but when he ſaw me bait with a minnow, and fiſh a ſtream, he ſaid he thought it the beſt, and would uſe it for the future.

My method is this: I uſe a rod with a ſtrong top; I make my line of lengths plaited with an engine,

engine, and neatly wrapped with white ſilk, a yard ſhorter than my rod; the uppermoſt plait is twelve hairs, the loweſt nine: I make a neat loop an inch long, at each end; to the ſmaller end I fix a ſwivel, the box ſwivel the beſt; to this I loop a link of a yard and an half long, with ſix hairs at the lower end; which makes the whole line about half a yard longer that the rod. I have a Gilſe hook, at the end of the line; but wrapped no further on the end of the ſhank, than to make it ſecure, and to leave more room to bait: an inch or very little more from the ſhank end of the Gilſe hook, I wrap on a ſtrong hook about half the ſize of the other. I put the point of the large hook in at the mouth of the minnow, and out at the tail, on the right ſide of the minnow, bending it half round as I put it on; then I put the other hook in below the under chap, and out at the upper part of the upper chap, which keeps the minnow's mouth quite cloſe. When I am in no hurry, I tie the tail and hook together, with a very ſmall white thread. Before I enter the little hook, I draw up the minnow to its full length, and make it fit the bending of the great hook, to make it twirl round when it is drawn in the water. The uſe of the ſwivel is, that the line may not untwiſt, by the minnow's turning round, as it muſt do without it.

When all is in order, I take the line in my left hand, a little above the bait, and throw it under hand, lifting up my right and the rod, that the bait may fall gently into the water. I ſtand at the very top of the ſtream, as far off,

as

as my tackle will permit, and let the bait drop in a yard beyond the middle of it; I draw the minnow with gentle pulls of about a yard at a time, acroſs the ſtreams, turning my rod top up the water, within half a yard of its ſurface, keeping my eye fixed on the minnow.

When a fiſh takes it, he generally hooks himſelf; however, I give him a ſmart ſtroke, and if he does not get off then, I am pretty ſure of him. In this manner I throw in three or four times at the upper part of a ſtream, but never twice in the ſame place, but a yard lower every caſt. I always throw quite over the ſtream, and let the bait croſs it in a round, like a ſemicircle, about a foot below the ſurface, which the two ſhot of N°. 3, or 4, that I always have upon my line, nine or ten inches from the hooks, will ſink it to. When I am drawing the bait acroſs the ſtream, I keep the top of the rod within leſs than a yard from the water, and draw it downward, that the bait may be at the greater diſtance from me, and the firſt thing that the fiſh will ſee. Sometimes I can ſee the fiſh before he takes the bait, and then I gave in the rod a little, that the minnow may, as it where, meet him half way; but if I think he is ſhy, I pull it away and do not throw it in again till he has got to his feeding place. The twirling of the minnow is the beauty of this way of angling, the fiſh ſeeing it at a greater diſtance, and fancying it is making all the haſte it can to eſcape from them, and ſo make the more haſte to catch it.

You may trowl with the minnow baited, as the gentleman did, with two middle ſized hooks, and

and lead in its mouth. for trout, perch, and chub, in proper places for them, as you trowl for pike, in a wind or by a deep ſtream.

CHAP. XXI.

How to get the largeſt Fiſh where you cannot uſe a Rod.

I HAVE often ſeen great pools, with high banks, rocks or woods on both ſides, that I could do nothing with a rod, and where there has been plenty of great fiſh, and a ſtrong ſtream. I have looked at ſuch places with no little grief and vexation, till at laſt I contrived a way to make myſelf eaſy; which I am purſuaded was never uſed by any angler before:

Having my creel, and all my night-line materials, I got a dry ſtick, about the thickneſs of my arm, and a yard or more long: with this I waded in, to the very top of the ſtream, looped my line on the middle of the ſtick, and dropped it into the ſtream; then I looped on a baited ſnood a yard from the ſtick, another a yard and a half from that, and ſo on, till the ſtick would go no farther down; then I cut off my line, made a loop, faſtened it on a ſtone, and laid it in the ſtream. I have been well paid and pleaſed in the morning, to have ten or twelve large trouts ſtruggling for their lives and liberties: I continued this method five or ſix times, till I got only

only three or four, and then let it reſt till repleniſhed at Michaelmas, or in the ſpring.

There is a very remarkable pool in Cocket, a little below Rothbnry, called the Thrum, where the river has made its way through, or rather under a great rock, near the high end of which I have frequently ſtepped over. The pool is very deep and narrow, fifty or ſixty yards long. There is no good angling in it, though one may get to it on both ſides, becauſe a great trout will run under the rock on either ſide, and break a ſtrong line; ſo that even a landing net will not be of any ſervice. I uſed the abovementioned method here, and the firſt time I put a line in it, I catched two of the largeſt burn trouts that were ever ſeen in theſe parts; they were twenty ſix inches long, and very thick: the length and breadth of one of them was cut out on Mrs. Parks's table, in Rothbury, and ſhewn to anglers, &c. as a great rarity. I had above twenty people with me when I drew this line; and I laid in this place till I got nothing at forty hooks but a few eels, and ſo gave it over for that year. Some call this beggaring a pool, and I cannot ſay but it is ſo for the preſent, though in half a year it will be repleniſhed.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXII.

Of Angling at Night, in what Places and with what Flies and Baits.

NIGHT is certainly the beſt time of killing the moſt and largeſt fiſh; thoſe that are ſo ſhy, as not to feed at all, unleſs under buſhes, or in windy weather, hunting then for their prey, and feeding boldly and greedily: and yet every night is not ſeaſonable and fit for the purpoſe. When the day has been what we call a fine fiſhing day, and the night is either froſty and clear, or the moon ſhines, it is better let alone. The darker the night the better; though even then, if it is rainy or windy, which is the beſt ſeaſon for night lines, I would not adviſe any angler to try his conſtitution ſo far, but let a few lines be fiſhing for him. In a dark, calm warm night, one may have ſport enough without danger, eſpecially if he clothes well, keeps his feet dry, and ſometimes wets his mouth with a cordial dram.

My method is this; I have a dark lanthorn, or one that I can make ſo on one ſide at leaſt. This I ſet at a little diſtance from the place where I angle, with the dark ſide towards me; to which I go upon all occaſions to bait, or change my tackling. If I chooſe a deep pool, where the river makes a turn or eddy, I fiſh with worms or fly. I make my fly large, in imitation of a nocturnal or large moth, or the owl fly, all which come abroad in the evenings: I dreſs it to ſix hairs,

hairs, with light mottled large wings, ſometimes double; the body of the whitiſh ſtuffing of an old ſaddle, or ſuch dubbing as may be got in a tanner's yard, and a large white or yellow cock's hackle over all. The body of the fly is at leaſt as thick as a gooſe's-quill, and rather more than an inch long, with a great rough head: My line a yard longer than my rod. when I have thrown it out to its full length, I draw it back by little pulls of about a yard, which makes it ſwim as if alive. When I hear a fiſh break the water, and feel my line ſtop, I generally ſtrike, though great fiſh hook themſelves by cloſing their mouths and turn their heads. When the night is not very dark, I have a link with a fly of the ſame ſize, a little darker; and when it is ſo clear, that I can ſee my line, I put on another with a motled wing, a brown body, and a black hackle with red points: This fly I make about half the ſize of the firſt.

When I fiſh with worms, which is the more certain bait, my line is much the ſame for ſtrength and length; my hook large; I put on two well-ſcoured dew-worms ſo, that the four ends may hang equally down: I uſe no lead, draw it on the top as the fly, and when a fiſh takes it, I do not ſtrike, but give in my rod top, to let him go down to the bottom with it, and ſwallow his great mouth full. If I am weary of this, and there are any fine ſtreams, I trowl with a minnow, which is the beſt way of all.

When I fiſh with minnow at night I get them in the evening, chooſe them of a middle-ſize, bright and little bellied; I throw a little ſalt

on them and keep them in a bladder and bait and fiſh as in the day. Theſe are the beſt ways of angling at night; and when I have had a companion and a bottle, and been cheerful, I have often filled a large pannier with fine trout.

To this chapter I ſhall add, and not unſeaſonably, I hope, a method I uſed, when at Durham and in other places, which was this:

When I had a mind to divert any Gentlemen, that ſometimes would deſire to bear me company in a night's fiſhing, I contrived it ſo that they might eat and drink, and catch fiſh at the ſame time For which purpoſe. I pitched upon a warm calm evening, and upon a pool where I knew there was plenty of fiſh, and when the river was a little flooded. There, we ſometimes had a tent, ſometimes a good ſhade, and ſuch proviſions of eatables and drinkables as we chooſe to bring. My province was to prepare all the materials for fiſhing. I had eighteen or twenty lines, which I put in at proper diſtances, yet near one another; my baits, worms or minnows. I ſet every man his poſt, and number of lines to manage. I had half pound leads or ſtones for the far end of every line, on which I looped five or ſix ſnoods: when I threw in a line to its length, I put the near end into a nick or cleft that I made in the top of a ſtick, which I faſtened in the bank ſide: to this ſtick I looped a little bell, ſuch as children have at their bell-horſes: The Gentlemen would be often called to their poſts, and forced to ground their arms, till they had drawn out the line. My taſk was the moſt troubleſome, to take off the

the fiſh, to put on freſh-baited ſnoods, which I had ready in a diſh, and to throw in the lines again, and generally, before I could ſit down and drink, another bell has rung, and called us to duty. Sometimes the Gentlemen would let the bell ring as long as a country vicar would do, who liked his tankard and friend full as well as praying. But this made me more work, for the eels would often make knots on the ſnoods, which I could not afford time to unlooſe, ſo was forced to take off the ſnoods, and put both together into the creel.

I have often catched two hundred or more, great and ſmall, and we have got home ſoon in the morning, before people were ſtirring; having a truſty ſervant to take care of all the appurtenances, till we have taken a morning's nap. Some of my companions would now and then be catching cold, which in time abated their fondneſs for theſe night works, and then we changed it into the more healthful day-angling.

CHAP. XXIII.

Of Eels, how they are bred, and of the ſeveral Ways of catching them.

I Shall not trouble my reader with the nonſenſical ſtuff of their being bred of corruption, or a dew falling in May or June, or of hairs falling into the water, &c. I have catched

them at all times of the year, except the middle of winter; and even then, when the river has been frozen very hard; as I remember once at Keeper, near Durham, the mill-dam being broken with the weight of ice laying upon it, the key next to the hoſpital and gardens was left dry, almoſt to the foundation, the ice ſubſiding as the water drained from under it; and abundance of eels crawled out of the wall and lay torpid, as if dead upon the ice: I got many of them, ſome large ones; but neither in theſe, nor in any that I ever took, could I obſerve either milt or roe, or any veſſel to contain the ovaries, as may be ſeen in all fiſh that ſpawn. It is therefore my opinion, nay I am poſitive in it, that they are produced by generation and brought forth alive; for, if all the arguments for ſpontaneous generation, and equivocal productions were ſtrictly examined, they would be found to be vulgar errors, like the raining of frogs; and the abettors of ſuch opinions might be driven to the dilemma of ignorance or infidelity. That any animal ſhould be produced in any other way, than that of God's appointment, I mean from animal parents, is a miraculous production, a new creation. And though there are many things in the works of nature, which we cannot account for, yet we may be ſure of this, that they are regular and uniform; that all the ſpecies of creatures that God made in the beginning, are continued by generation, in conſequence of that great and univerſal command, *Increaſe and multiply*; to which end it was, that

that *male and female created he them;* and why? unleſs to produce their reſpective kinds.

It is well known to the fiſhermen in moſt of our harbours, that ſand eels are bred in the ſands, from whence they hook them out with crooked knives, and make excellent baits of them for large fiſh. And there is an eel called a burrabut or green-bone; that is a viviparous fiſh. I have often at Shields, taken theſe in a net when their bellies have been big, and have given them a nick with my penknife, and there have ſprawled out one hundred or more into a tub of water, that I had to put my fiſh in: they were about two inches long, and very lively; and I am perſuaded that the lamprey is bred in the ſame manner. However, that they are delicious eating, our epicures allow; I ſhall therefore tell you ſeveral ways of catching them.

As eels do not commonly ſtir in the day-time, but hide themſelves in the holes of walls, dams, floodgates, or in holes in the river's banks; then is the moſt proper time, and theſe moſt likely places to take them by brogling or ſnigling, which is thus: When the water is low and the day warm, tie an eel hook, ſhaped as a pike hook, to a ſtrong line of what materials you pleaſe; bait it with a well-ſcoured dew-worm; you may have a ſtick of a convenient length, cleft at the ſmall end, and a ring to ſlip on to it, and another ſmall ſhort ſtick, flat at the thicker end, to put into the cleft of the longer ſtick, and made ſharp at the ſmall end, to go into the worm at the ſhank end of the hook: this ſmall ſtick you may fix in the cleft of the other, ſo, that you

may guide the bait to any nich or hole where an eel may be: you may often know where there is one, by the mouth of the hole being ſmooth and clean, with the eel's putting out her head at it to ſeek a bait. When an eel takes the worm, ſhe will eaſily pull it of the point of the ſmall ſtick, and not be long in ſwallowing it. The other end may be looped about your wriſt; and if you keep the line at ſtretch, ſhe will ſoon yield and come out: You may put the ſhank end of your hook when baited, into a little nick or hole at the ſmall end of your ſmall ſtick, if you think it is a better way.

Another way of taking eels is by bobbing for them; but this ſhould be done either in the tide-way, when it is coming in till near high-water, or in freſh waters, when they are muddy. Take a good quantity of well-ſcoured dew-worms, and with a needle run them on to a very ſtrong thread, from end to end: wrap theſe a dozen or fourteen times about a trencher or board, tie them faſt with the two ends of the thread, that they may hang down in ſo many coils or hanks: theſe you muſt make faſt with a loop about the place where you tied them, to a ſtrong cord, and five or ſix inches above the worms, you muſt have a plumb of lead more than half a pound weight, with a hole through it and make it reſt upon a knot on the cord; or you may have your lead at the end of the cord, in the middle of the hanks. The other end of the cord you muſt loop on to the end of a pole of a convenient length; and when you have let your worms touch the bottom, draw

draw them up a hand breadth, and prop your pole in ſuch a manner, that you may ſee and feel when the eels are tugging at the worms; when you think they have ſwallowed ſome of them far enough, you may draw them up eaſily to the top of the water; and then hoiſt them away, and let them drop off into a baſket, or what elſe you have provided for that purpoſe.

In many places they make junkets or eel-traps, and put ſmall live fiſh into them, and lay them in deeps, among ſtones, or cloſe under dams, and let them lay two or three nights. This is a very killing way, if the baſkets are nicely made, and well baited with a ſheep's or beaſt's liver, guts, &c.

The millers, thoſe baſe land-otters, have a way to take them when they run, as they call it, twice in the year, with a ſtrong net, and ſometimes a poke at the end of it; which they fix at the end of a ſluice, and let the water run through it all night; and it were well if they took none but eels; for, when they go down, they never return as ſalmon and trouts will, but get to ſea, and are what the fiſhermen call congers: But theſe roguiſh millers take carps, trouts, ſalmons, ſalmon-fry, and whatever comes to net; without offering them a bait, or leuing them have any chance for their lives.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIV.

How to catch Minnows.

THIS, you will ſay, is child's play; yet there is ſome art required to catch a ſufficient number to bait a dozen or eighteen lines. I generally fiſh for them with two or three hooks, baited with a bit of brandling or any ſmall worm, or a bit of a grub or maggot.

Sometimes, I have a net hooped with a ſtrong wire, to which I faſten three ſmall cords at equal diſtances, like a pair of ſcales, tying them together half a yard from the hoop; and half a yard higher up, to the top of a long ſtrong pole; I run a thread through a few worms, leaving the two ends of them unthreaded, and tie the threads acroſs from one ſide of the wire to the other. I drop my net thus baited by the ſide of a ſtream, and prop my pole conveniently to be lifted up with a ſudden jerk: This way I have often catched enow. but a little caſt-net, I think does better. I have, ſometimes, uſed a better way than either of theſe: I have made a paſte of coculus indicus, as many do to fox dace, &c. and thrown in very ſmall pills, where I have ſeen minnows, and taken up thoſe that did not run aſhore, with a little landing net. I found one advantage in foxing them, which I wondered at, and do not know the reaſon of; which is, that theſe minnows, when baited, are much brighter, and will endure lying in the water much longer than thoſe taken any other way.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXV.

Of Night Lines. How to make them. When, where, and how to lay them.

THIS practice is generally complained of, and decried by all our fair anglers, as they call themſelves; nay, even by our Gentlemen, who make no ſcruple of taking ten or a dozen looſe hands, and with their nets ſweeping as many pools, and deſtroying all the breeding fiſh. Perhaps this chapter will not be approved of; and ſeveral may ſay, I had better have written nothing about it. But as I have been accuſed of doing a great deal of miſchief this way, and could not have killed ſo many great fiſh without ſome extraordinary judgment, I ſhall let my reader know how I came by it; and they that like my method, may take it, and they that do not, may let it alone.

I have been often, at ſeveral little towns near the ſea, where the fiſhermen go off in their cobles, and ſhoot their great lines; and when the weather has not been favourable, have laid their tratts or ſhort lines, near the ſhore, and in the rivers, or where the becks run into the ſea; I have ſeen them catch a great many ſmall fiſh, of ſeveral ſorts. I was very inquiſitive, and took notice how the lines were made, and the ſnoods with hooks at them, were faſtened to the lines; what baits they uſed, and how they put them on; how, and in what places they laid them, with a ſtone at each end, and ſometimes a buoy, when

when they thought it needful, to find the lines more readily. This method of theirs put me upon doing ſomething like it in the freſh water pools. I found ſome parts of their method impracticable, ſome inconvenient; theſe I changed for thoſe I thought eaſier and better. As for my lines, at firſt, I uſed three-fold packthread, with loops at each end to faſten them on the ſtones; and inſtead of knotting my plaits to the line, I made loops at the ends of them, and after I had baited them, linked them on to the line at proper diſtances; and after many trials and improvements, I came at laſt to this method, which I think no body can alter for the better. I twiſt my plaits with an engine, my hooks are made like pike hooks, but ſingle, and pretty long in the ſhank.

The loop at the end of every ſnood, I make about three or four inches long, nicely and ſtrongly wrapped with white ſewing ſilk: I uſe minnows, and other ſmall fiſh for baits, which I put on with a needle. My needle is made of ſteel, four or five inches long, flat, and ſomewhat ſharp at the point and ſides. The eye of it is about a ſtraw's breadth long, with a nick filed in at one ſide towards the point of it, for the more conveniently putting the loop of the ſnood into the eye of it. I put the point of the needle in at the mouth, and out at the very end of the fiſh's tail, and ſo draw it on to the plait, till the hook lies in the ſide of its mouth.

Some may think, I am too nice in ordering my baits. My method is this:——When I have choſen the brighteſt minnows, with the leaſt

ſpawn

ſpawn in them, I lay them in a wooden diſh or earthen platter, and throw a little ſalt on them, having firſt baited them; then I put the loops of the ſnoods on the root of a fiſhing-rod, or a long ſtick, and faſten the end of it into a wall, or prop it at both ends where the ſun and wind may dry them a little: The benefit of ſalting and drying them you will perceive in the morning when you draw your lines; the baits that have not been touched by the fiſh will be freſh, and their fins will ſtand out as if they were alive. I tie a handkerchief about the diſh, or whatever I have to lay the baits in, with the ſnoods hanging all one way, and carry them carefully in my hand to the water ſide. Sometime before I lay my lines, I take notice of the likelieſt places, and get two ſtones, the largeſt about the ſize and ſhape of half a brick, that the line may not ſlip from it, as it ſometimes will, if it is not carefully looped on, eſpecially when dragged from its place by great fiſh: the leſſer ſtone is only half as big as the other, of the ſame ſhape: theſe I hide near the place where I deſign to uſe them, that I may not have them to ſeek when I am in haſte to lay my lines.

When I come to a fit place, I ſet down my diſh, take a line out of my bag; loop it well on to the bigger ſtone, and a ſnood about a yard or four feet from it; and throw in the ſtone, two or three yards, according to the place I lay in; then I loop on five, ſix or ſeven more ſnoods at a yard and an half diſtance from each other, laying them down orderly in a row on the ſand or bank ſide, with the heads of the baits next to the water,

water, and the line in coils behind the baits: when I have looped on the little ſtone, I ſtand with my right ſide to the water, clear of the baits and line, and throw the ſtone under hand to very near the length of the line, which in a ſtream I would have more ſlack, to give the fiſh room to ſtruggle; but not ſo much that one fiſh or bait, may reach to another. I have a drag made of ſtrong wire, with three or four hooks, but not ſo ſtrong but that will bend and become ſtreight, if it ſhould by chance get hold of a ſtone, &c. when I draw out my line, I take off ſnoods and fiſh; waſh my line, wrap it up in ringlets, wring it and put it in my bag, till I get home; then I open it out, dry it very well, and wrap it up again ready for another opportunity: I take all the hooks out of the fiſh, and lay them regularly in an old glove, or piece of a bladder: dry them well, and wrap them up by forties in a piece of leather or bladder, againſt another time: I hide the ſtones as before, that no fiſher may diſcover my places of laying.

There is a great deal of judgment in chooſing the beſt places: if there is a deep part of the pool, that has good holds, ſuch roots, ſtones, hollow banks, &c. I never lay near them, but at the firſt ſhallow, ſandy or gravelly place, either above or below ſuch holds, or on the other ſide, oppoſite to ſuch holds, if it is ſandy and ſhallow; for there the minnows and ſmall fry will reſort, to be out of the way of the great ones: and there, for that very reaſon, will the great fiſh come eſpecially at night, and hunt for their prey. I have gone out, ſometimes, with a brother angler, and have

have let him put in his lines where he pleased in every pool we came at, and yet I have killed three for his one, by laying between his lines and the deeps. All fording places are good in floods.

I must confess that this is a very troublesome and fatiguing way of fishing; but to make amends for that, it is a never failing method; and will bring you the most and best fish when you are sleeping in your bed. Sometimes, the lesser stone will get fast between two stones, &c. and you will be forced to break the line; to prevent the losing a hook, in such a case, I loop on to one end of every line, about a yard of smaller and weaker twine, which I loop on to the little stone, that it may break, and save all my other line and hooks.

CHAP. XXVI.

Of Flood-Fishing. What Tackling is most proper, Rods, Lines, and Baits.

NEXT to night-lines, this, I think, is a very successful method of taking the most and best fish; though it seldom lasts above a day at a time. A true angler, would not have it said of him, that he could not catch a dish of fish, whatever condition the water was in. I have boasted in this manner, and been challenged to make good my bravado, and have

performed it, both when the water has been what we call *dead little*, and when it has been a high flood, and a thick white water. And I think, there is no difficulty in catching a good diſh in both theſe extremes. In a great flood an angler may be revenged on the great trouts, for their ſhyneſs when the water is fine.

I ſhall tell you my method. I have ten or twelve rods, about two yards long, of hazle, generally each of one piece, finely taper, cut about Martinmas, and well ſeaſoned. I wrap a loop about two inches long to the top, and ſharpen the thick end, to ſtick into the bank or ſand. Half of theſe rods are much finer than the other half, to ſuit the lines I put to them. To the ſtronger, I have twelve hairs next the hooks; to the finer only ſix. My lines are juſt the length of my rods, with a loop at each end about an inch long, neatly wrapped; for the ſtronger rods, my lines are eighteen hairs at the top, and fifteen at the bottom, engine-twiſted: and for the finer rods, twelve hairs at the top, and nine at the bottom. I lead my lines upon the wrapping of the loop at the lower end. For my ſtronger tackling. I have a long plait of twelve hairs a little taper: I wrap on a ſizeable hook to each end; then I double the plait at the thicker end, and make a loop about ſix inches from the hook; this loop I put through the loop of the line, and then put both the hooks through it and draw it cloſe, to make the whole line as if all of a-piece. My finer plaits of ſix hairs, I make in the ſame manner, with leſs hooks.

My

My baits are maiden lobs or ſod-worms, well ſcoured in moſs.

This way is only for two hooks at a line, which is the eaſieſt and beſt way, eſpecially, after the eels begin to plague the angler. I know the places where I fiſh, and always chooſe the ſandy ſide of a ſtream or pool, though very ſhallow, for the fiſh will then draw very near the ſide, to to be more out of the ſtrength of the current, and to feed more quietly. Sometimes, I put on another link with two hooks like that at the end of my line, looping it on to the line at the wrapping next above the lead; for I make all theſe lines with an engine, and wrap the plaits to one another, with well-waxed white ſilk. Sometimes, I chooſe to put on a minnow, and then I can but have one hook on a ſnood, and bait it with a needle. After the river is riſen to its full height, the beſt of this way of fiſhing is over: any time of the year, if there is not much ice coming down with the flood, you may catch fiſh, if you can but endure the cold.

FINIS.

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